

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
November 13, 2018

Commissioner Ahrens at the New London terminal called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on November 13, 2018 at 1:45 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, William Bloethe, Peter Rugg and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, RJ Burns, John Haney, Diane Hansen and Deanna Ross. Members of the public were present including many FIFD employees.

Commissioner Ahrens established that a quorum was present. Everyone in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag. Chairman Ahrens welcomed all present.

**Correspondence/Public Comment** – Mr. Cook reported that a letter was received from Mrs. Vickie Rogers asking for exchange of old ferry tickets. The BOC has agreed to exchange the tickets Mr. Cook introduced Mrs. Mere Doyen who has recently been appointed as Fishers Island town liaison to TOS. Mrs. Doyen will be working closely with Mrs. Louisa Evans and the Island Community Board and plans to attend regularly scheduled BOC meetings as well as other district meetings. Mrs. Doyen commented that if there is anything that she can help with she is more than happy to do so and hopes to improve communication between Fishers Island and TOS.

**Budget Modifications**

Ms. Hansen reported it was determined BY THE District Finance Committee that the FIFD is not obligated to pay excise tax on fuel purchases to the State of Connecticut. \$95,394 is a refund from three years of excise tax paid from July 2015 to June 2018 and is being allocated to other areas of the budget.

RESOLUTION 2018 – 207

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends the **2018** Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Increase Revenue

SM.2701.00	Refund Prior Year Expense	\$95,394
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		\$95,394

Increase Appropriations

SM5709.2.000.200	Repairs, Docks and Terminals	\$15,000
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SM5710.4.000.300	Fuel Oil, Vessels	\$79,394
SM7155.4.000.100	Repairs, Rental Building	\$1,000
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		\$95,394

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg  
 Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens  
 Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo  
 Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2018 – 208

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends the **2018** Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Increase Revenue

H7.5710.00	Serial Bond Proceeds	\$290,000
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Increase Appropriations

H7.5989.2.400.300	Munnatawket Engine Replacement	\$150,000
H7.5989.2.400.100	Dredging - Silver Eel Cove	\$140,000
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		\$290,000

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg  
 Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham  
 Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo  
 Nays: None

Commissioner Rugg asked about the timing on the dredging project. Mr. Cook reported that this will take place in Spring 2019. Chairman Ahrens has kept the Conservancy Board updated.

**Warrants**

RESOLUTION 2018 – 209

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated November 13, 2018, in the amount of \$94,931.44.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe  
Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

Ms. Hansen updated the BOC regarding Warrant A. Ms. Hansen received notice from the TOS Comptroller of the 2018-2019 employer contribution to the employee pension fund. The 3 quarters of 2018 and the 1st quarter of 2019 equals \$157,766.00 which must be paid by December 8, 2018 to receive the discounted rate.

#### RESOLUTION 2018 – 210

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant A dated November 13, 2018, in the amount of \$157,766.00.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo  
Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

#### **Ferry Fuel Oil Award**

#### RESOLUTION 2018 – 211

Whereas a Request for Proposals was issued and advertised in a widely circulated publication; and

Whereas three proposals were received, the proposals conform to the published specifications, the pricing is acceptable to management, and management recommends accepting the proposal from Dime Oil Co LLC;

Therefore it is Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the bid from Dime Oil Co LLC for mark-up price \$0.0123 from the daily posted barge price in New Haven, CT for the period commencing January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2021; and it is further

Resolved to authorize management to execute contract and ancillary documents for this commodity after review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo  
Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

**Open Audit RFP Responses** - Commissioner Rugg informed all present that there is a standard to change auditors every 5-7 years. RFP's were sent out and 6 were received. Each RFP includes qualifications, experience and a list of fees. Mr. Cook opened each RFP in the presence of the BOC in the following order: 1. O'Connor Davies, 2. EFPR Group, 3. Satty, Levine & Ciacco, 4. Sheehan & Co., 5. BST and 6. R.S.

Abrams & Co. Management and the Finance Committee will thoroughly review and make recommendations to the BOC at a future BOC meeting.

## **Management Reports**

**Marine Update** - Mr. Burns reported that the Race Point shipyard period is going well. He is confident the shipyard will meet the deadline of December 8, 2018. The budget line items are on target. Any growth was identified early and to date has not exceeded 15%. At this time, the sewage tank needs to be finished which will be followed up with a USCG inspection. In addition, painting of the bottom of the boat needs to be completed. Mr. Burns stated that he is impressed with Goodison shipyard. Virtually every work item was opened during the first week of the shipyard period. Approximately 3-4 crew members have been going to the shipyard almost every day unless it is clear that no work can be done due to weather, etc. Weather permitting, the boat is scheduled back December 8, 2018. Once returned, Mr. Burns will have planned for approximately 2 weeks dockside to tend to other outstanding issues.

Mr. Burns reported that fuel deliveries, coupled with some weather issues, have been a challenge with the schedule for the smaller boat Munnatawket. Mr. Burns would like to compliment the many contractors who have been patient with scheduling and moving things around to make it all work. Cross Sound Ferry's North Star was used twice for contractors and other vendors who coordinated with each other and were able to share the cost. Mr. Burns directed all present to a white board with the list of active items for the Munnatawket re-power project. This is a planned two-month project. Next week, Mr. Burns will sign the contract with Thames Shipyard.

Mr. Cook and the engineering department are moving forward with troubleshooting for causes of a significant increase in the electric bill at the New London terminal. There is possibility that the meter itself is problematic and someone will be coming to inspect the meter in the near future. In addition, specialists have inspected the bulkheads. No straight current, which might have flowed through the meter, was identified to cause the bulkheads to dissolve.

Mr. Burns reported that he, along with the FIFD, was recognized in The Day for volunteering to assist with the visit of the cruise ship and setting up the security plan at city pier. In addition, Mr. Burns would like to compliment Mr. John Paradis and the staff who were recognized by Principal Christian Arsenault, Mrs. Carol Giles and the Fishers Island Teachers' Association for their impressive outreach efforts with the school and its students with regard to shadowing programs and internships. Currently student Ian Tirabassi has been working with the crew on the boat. The BOC would like to congratulate the crew for this positive recognition.

**Traffic Update** - Mr. Hany reviewed the monthly traffic report. October passenger count was down from the previous year. Weekend traffic has been steady. Cargo runs are in-between scheduled runs and because of the short turn-around time in the afternoon, it is often making the 3:30 departure late; however, Mr. Hany feels the crew is doing a great job turning the boat around as fast as they can. Wind has also played a role in the month of October, which has lengthened transit times. On-time departures remain at 93%. In the event of late arrivals, Mr. Burns will get an estimated arrival time from the Captain and email or call the school who will then notify parents.

**Walsh Park Update** - Mr. Cook informed all that the project is moving forward and the relocation of the current tenants in the freight building is falling into place. Commissioner Burnham stated that there is a

Walsh Park meeting tonight and more information may become available regarding the permit process timing.

**Grasslands Management** - Chairman Ahrens informed the BOC that a building permit application has been submitted and once the resolution is approved by the TOS then a second application for a TOS permit must be submitted.

### **Grasslands Management**

#### RESOLUTION 2018 - 212

Whereas the Ferry District annually enters into a contract with the Fishers Island Conservancy, Inc. ("FIC") to manage the airport lands' grasslands; and

Whereas the FIC wishes to place a non-fixed storage shed on or about the community theater grounds for the purpose of maintaining equipment and supplies to support the grasslands management project; and

Whereas the shed lease terms and conditions will be included in the agreement with FIC (currently annual) to maintain the grasslands; now therefore, it is

Resolved to approve the placement of the shed as part of the contract with FIC subject to review by counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham  
Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe  
Ayes: W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo  
Commissioner Ahrens recused himself from this resolution  
Nays: None

### **HR**

#### RESOLUTION 2018 - 213

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore, it is RESOLVED to reinstate, with effect November 22, 2018, Mark Boehm as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$12.61 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens  
Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

**Other** - Mr. Murphy informed the BOC that management will begin working with the Finance Committee on a new draft property management agreement. The BOC has agreed to have a working session at the beginning of the next meeting to discuss.

### **Executive Session**

At 14:36, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Ayes: A. Ahrens, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

At 15:05, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, That the Commission exit from Executive Session and resume Public Session.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Ayes: A. Ahrens, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

**Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, November 26, 2018 at 4:30pm at the Island Community Center with a 3:30pm working session.**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner A. Ahrens, seconded by Commissioner P. Rugg, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.