

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
November 26, 2018

Commissioner Ahrens at the Fishers Island Community Center called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on November 26, 2018 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, Peter Rugg and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy and Deanna Ross. RJ Burns and Diane Hansen attended via phone. Commissioner Bloethe was absent. Public member Mere Doyen was present.

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

Correspondence/Public Comment – Mr. Cook reported that he received correspondence from Mr. Maarten van Hengel requesting exchange for six tickets. The BOC has agreed to exchange. Mrs. Doyen requested an update on the Theater. This topic is on the agenda and will be discussed at that time. Mr. Murphy asked Mrs. Doyen how she reports the FIFD BOC meetings to TOS. Mrs. Doyen replied that she is uncertain at this time. She stated that there was discussion of a quarterly report of current issues and what has been accomplished. To date, Mrs. Doyen has not interacted with members from TOS but has been involved with a working group including Mr. Tom O’Neil, Rev. Candice Whitman and Mrs. Louisa Evans. Mrs. Doyen asked the BOC for a copy of the amendments to the Enabling Act. Management will provide this to Mrs. Doyen.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2018 - 214

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes as amended of the October 1, 2018 meeting.

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

RESOLUTION 2018 - 215

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the October 19, 2018 meeting.

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

Budget Modifications

RESOLUTION 2018 - 216

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

Decrease Appropriations

SM5710.2.000.200	Ferry Repairs - Race Point	\$10,000
SM5710.4.000.000	Ferry Operations, Other	\$1,000
SM5710.4.400.100	Marine Engineering	\$4,000
SM.9060.8.000.000	Medical Insurance Bene	\$7,000
SM9730.7.000.000	BAN Interest	\$4,000
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		\$26,000

Increase Appropriations

SM1420.4.000.000	Legal Fees	\$10,000
SM5710.1.000.300	Vacation Earnings	\$7,000
SM5710.4.000.100	Utilities - New London	\$8,000
SM5710.4.000.800	Uniforms	\$1,000
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		\$26,000

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

Warrant - Ms. Hansen reported that from now until next spring, “due to capital fund” items will be on the warrant because that is how QuickBooks shows items that are paid for with bonded funds. These expenses are not shown in the operating accounts. The funds are moved and expensed into the capital fund and out of the operating fund. The BOC thanked Ms. Hansen for the clarification.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2018 – 217

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated November 26, 2018, in the amount of \$121,676.78.

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

Finance Report - Mr. Murphy reported that the Finance Committee met last week and the major topic was the Audit RFP and steps to go forward. All BOC members received a copy of the financials for the period ending October 31, 2018. Mr. Murphy reviewed the reports. Ferry operations are up 4% and overall income up 7% year to date from previous year. Expenses have climbed 3%. Overall, Mr. Murphy reported that the cash balance is strong. Mr. Cook reported that lower traffic numbers in October were attributed to running the smaller boat, as well as a rainy month.

Management Reports

Marine Update - Mr. Burns reported that the Race Point shipyard is progressing quite well and looking at a target delivery date of December 7, 2018. When the boat returns, there remains a fairly substantial work list so it will remain dockside for approximately 2 weeks for the needed maintenance. The budget line items are on target. Any growth was identified early and did not exceed 15%.

Regarding the Munnatawket, Mr. Burns has a meeting December 5, 2018 with the engine vendor, reduction gear vendor and the application engineers. On either December 6 or 7, 2018, Mr. Burns will be meeting with the USCG to go over all the plan approvals. The electronic controls testing is still in the works.

Commissioner Rugg asked Mrs. Doyen if she would be interested in taking a ride on the Race Point from Narragansett Bay to New London. Mrs. Doyen said yes and Mr. Burns would like all interested to email him directly to coordinate.

Ms. Deanna Ross informed management that the yellow paint on the walkway ramp leading to the boat of the Fishers Island terminal could be slick in adverse weather. Ms. Ross witnessed one person falling and was informed of another. Neither incident caused injury. Mr. Murphy stated that the new paint turned out slick and a new coat with sand will be applied as soon as a weather window permits.

Walsh Park Update - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that the two lease holders received sea containers and the relocation process is moving forward.

PVA Update - Mr. Cook recently attended a PVA meeting in Boston. Mr. Cook reported that the meetings and presentations were very informative. Mr. Cook learned that ferries do not fall under ADA compliance. It is for facilities only. However, guidelines are in place today that eventually will become law and would require future boats to be compliant. Mr. Cook also learned that the FIFD has \$525,000 in federal highway funds that are available. These funds can be used for ferries and terminals only. Eligibility for the federal highway funds require the completion of the national census. Since 2013, the FIFD has completed the national census and has been allocated funds of approximately \$90,000 + per year. Prior to this, Mr. Cook learned that back in 2003, the FIFD received a 2.5 million dollar grant for the New London terminal. There remains \$61,000 that is available from a particular grant that will expire

September 2019. All this funding is at 80% of project, which would require the FIFD to fund 20%. Discussion ensued about various projects that these funds could be allocated to. Mr. Cook informed the BOC that planning was also covered under the funds and feels that in light of talk of a future new ferry and therefore a transportation study would be beneficial where stakeholders would be involved and their needs identified and met. The BOC agrees this is necessary for long-term planning and has asked management to put together a list of capital projects for next meeting.

Grant Writer - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that MJ Bradley is the chosen source for grant writing. Discussion ensued and management will investigate and see how they can help with obtaining future grants.

Theater Update - Mr. Cook reported that he has seen no progress with the Utility Company regarding the cause for the very large \$3,400 utility bill that the theater received, nor any resolve to the recurrent monthly utility bill of \$2,500 due to the "demand surge". Previous bills were approximately \$280 per month. Mr. Cook spoke with a representative from the public utility commission and has not had any response to date. Mr. Murphy reported that to date, the initial bill and the subsequent "demand surge" bill have been paid by the Ferry District and both were reimbursed from the Friends of Fishers Island Theater group. Discussion ensued. The BOC is aware of the possibility that as of January 1, 2019, there will no longer be a contract with FFIT and shut down of the movie theater is likely due to FFIT's inability to pay \$2,500 monthly utility bills. Subsequently, this burden will be placed back on the Ferry District. Management will continue to investigate and have a third party look at the utility lines.

USCG Update - Mr. Burns recently received a letter from the hearing officer in Washington, D.C. stating that the \$5,000 fine was appropriate for the cited security problems at the Fishers Island freight building. Management is working on a response to the letter and will continue with the appeal process to protest the fine. Mr. Cook informed the BOC that the Security Plan focused around the terminal building in New London and did not include the Fishers Island freight office. The understanding over the years was that the PVA Alternate Security Plan for the New London Terminal governed the Fishers Island freight building. The updated plan was in the books in New London, but not at Fishers Island; hence the fine. Management will continue with the appeals process.

Audit RFP Update - Mr. Murphy reported that all six proposals were reviewed at the recent Finance Committee meeting. Two proposals were discounted and four will be followed up on with telephone interviews. Expected fees range from \$12,000 to \$25,000. Once all candidates have been interviewed, management will report their findings and make its recommendation to the BOC.

Dredging/Ferry Park Update - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that the permit from the NYDEC arrived today. Plans for dredging remain in spring of 2019. Commissioner Burnham has suggested that the working group get together prior to next meeting to review the parking map that Dick Strause of CMS completed, as well as the proposed drawings from Lucinda Herrick to begin to define the space more methodically. Mrs. Doyen has offered to look into possible grants for parks and recreation projects.

Other - Commissioner Rugg asked if there was plowing of snow off the runway. Mr. Murphy responded that there is no plowing of the runway. In the event of snow, air traffic goes to Groton Airport.

HR

RESOLUTION 2018 - 218

It is hereby RESOLVED to rescind resolution 2018-213

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

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

RESOLUTION 2018 - 219

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 \$12.86 per hour.

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

Other/Correspondence - Chairman Ahrens received an email from Mr. Bob Evans which he forwarded to Mr. Cook and Mr. Murphy. Mr. Evans is requesting that the FIFD consider an inclusion of a restrictive clause in all future leases and all renewals. The clause would prohibit any industrial activity on the premises. Mr. Evans stated that the term "industrial" needs to be refined but should include activities that generate noise to the surrounding community, specifically excluding any outdoor processing such as chipping or rock grinding. Discussion ensued and management will prepare a response.

Executive Session

At 17:58, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

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

At 18:20, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, December 10, 2018 at 4:30pm at the Island Community Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner P. Rugg, seconded by Commissioner D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.