

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
January 6, 2020

District Manager Geb Cook, 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 January 6, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

Commissioners Andrew Ahrens, William Bloethe, Heather Burnham, Jim Reid and Dianna Shillo were present. Deanna Ross and Geb Cook were in attendance. Gordon Murphy, RJ Burns, Jon Haney and Diane Hansen were present via phone. There were no members of the public present.

District Manager Geb Cook established that a quorum was present. Everyone in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

Housekeeping

RESOLUTION 2020 – 001

It is RESOLVED to elect Andrew Ahrens as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District for the year 2020.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe
Ayes: W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo
Nays: None
Abstained: A. Ahrens

Correspondence/Public Comment – Mr. Cook reported that a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Luke Fowler was sent to the Town of Southold Planning Board regarding opposition to the proposed airport hangar. This is the fourth letter the TOS Planning Board has received regarding opposition to the hangar. Concerns were voiced regarding environmental impacts with runoff, minimal island benefits and setting precedent. Mr. Cook reminded all present that a public hearing was held in May 2018 and was minuted at the ICB meeting held in May 2019. A TOS Planning Board Public Hearing is set for January 13, 2020. Mr. Cook reported that he sent a letter to the TOS regarding the proposed town barn.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2020 - 002

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated January 6, 2020, in the amount of \$25,590.28.

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

Traffic Update - December Traffic numbers were reviewed by the BOC. Mr. Cook reported that overall, traffic is on par and just a little under last year. On time percentage was 98%.

2020 BOC Goals - Mr. Cook will circulate the BOC goals from the last several years and all BOC members have agreed to create their own goals for 2020. Goals will be discussed at the working session of the next BOC meeting.

Management Reports

Marine Update - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. Race Point underwent anchor training today. Due to events in the Middle East, Mr. Burns anticipates a change in the MARSEC level in the near future. At this point, there is no change but a heightened awareness remains. A change in MARSEC level would require more package and vehicle inspections. Mr. Burns reported that there has been a change in how US mail is received. Historically, Norwich has delivered the mail; however, due to contract changes, New London will now be delivering the mail. Until the contract expires in June 2020, the mail will be transported from Norwich to New London and then to the ferry, creating an extra step. To ensure the process goes smoothly, Mr. Burns and Ms. Polly Ford met with the New London Postmaster to review expectations to ensure delivery of mail to the New London Terminal by 6:30 am. The M/V Munnatawket is expected back from the shipyard the week of Jan 6. Once the boat goes back into the water, the shaft alignment will need to be checked and then sea trials will take place. Mr. Burns invited new commissioner Jim Reid to tour the boat to get a sense of the marine operations and all that takes place for the boats to run effectively and on time. Mr. Reid thanks Mr. Burns and looks forward to the opportunity.

Property Management Agreement - Mr. Murphy sent out the red line version of the property management agreement to the BOC. The BOC members have agreed to review over the next few weeks and discuss at a later BOC meeting. Most of the current leases will need to be renewed in 2021. Progress continues at the Walsh Park freight building apartments. Renovations are taking place in the freight building office.

Other - Chairman Ahrens and the BOC welcomed the newest commissioner, Jim Reid, and thanked him for his service.

Legal

RESOLUTION 2020 - 003

WHEREAS, the Ferry District requires a second internet service point to its New London, CT terminal; and

Whereas the City of New London has offered its internet connection at its Waterfront Park police sub-station to be used by the Ferry District to create a Wi-Fi bridge.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ferry District and the City of New London, CT have prepared a memorandum of agreement for the use and expenses associated with the internet connection at the New London Police Department's sub-station; and

It is further RESOLVED to authorize Gordon Murphy to execute the memorandum of agreement with the City of New London, CT subject to review by district counsel.

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

Executive Session

At 10:42, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for discussing personnel matters.

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

At 11:12, the following resolution was proposed:

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

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

RESOLUTION 2020 - 004

RESOLVED, that the Board of Ferry Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District authorize the appointment of William Babiskin, Esq. as the hearing officer with respect to a Civil Service Law Section 75 Hearing involving a District employee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Ferry Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby authorizes the suspension (including without pay for up to 30 days) of this employee following the service of disciplinary charges against him and pending the Hearing Officer's determination of those charges.

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

Next Scheduled Meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 4:30 pm with a 3:30 working session at the Fishers Island Community Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner D. Shillo, seconded by Commissioner H. Burnham, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.