

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
February 3, 2020

Chairman 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 February 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM.

Commissioners Jim Reid and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy and Deanna Ross. Commissioners William Bloethe and Heather Burnham were absent.

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

**Correspondence/Public Comment** – Mr. Cook reported that no correspondence was received. Chairman Ahrens would like to thank Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Jane Ahrens and the Doctor’s Office for their efforts in adverting a potential debacle with pharmacy and dry cleaning services.

**Budget Modification**

RESOLUTION 2020 – 012

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends the 2019 Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Decrease Appropriations

SM9030.8.000.000	Social Security	\$5,000
SM9050.8.000.000	Unemployment Benefit	\$350
		<hr/>
		\$5,350

Increase Appropriations

SM5710.1.000.000	Personnel Services	\$5,000
SM1980.4.000.000	MTA Tax	\$350
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		\$5,350

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

## **Warrant**

RESOLUTION 2020 - 013

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated February 3, 2020, in the amount of \$47,531.61.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Ayes: A. Ahrens, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

## **Management Reports**

**Marine Update** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. The crew has been doing painting on the Munnatawket and should be running later this week. Munnatawket continues to have a vibration issue at 1600 RPM or 9 knots. A vibration specialist was engaged to determine the cause of the vibration and management is awaiting his report prior to any corrective action.

**Financials** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. The BOC reviewed financials for December 2019 and year end. For December 2019, revenue was up 8% over last year. Ferry repairs were up and total expenses were up 14% with a net loss income of \$345,000. For end of year, operations were down 2%, total income was down 4%, total expenses were up 2% with a net positive income of \$100,000.

## **Finance**

Upon review of the Accounts Receivable that remain outstanding in excess of 150 days, the District has determined that despite diligent collection efforts such receivables are deemed uncollectible. Therefore, in accordance with guidelines established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which requires that the financial statements present only those receivables with a reasonable expectation of collection, it is proposed that amounts deemed unrecoverable totaling \$1,751.68 are to be written off against revenues from Ferry Operations - Traffic (SM1760.2) in fiscal year 2019.

RESOLUTION 2019 – 014

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby authorizes the write-off of those Accounts Receivable in arrears by more than 150 days. The amount of the write-off of Accounts Receivable in fiscal year 2019 shall not exceed \$1,751.68.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Ayes: A. Ahrens, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

**Procurement Policy Annual Review** – As required annually by District policy, The BOC reviewed and approved the annual Procurement Policy.

## **Operations**

### RESOLUTION 2020 - 015

Whereas Fishers Island has junked vehicles that need to be removed from the island (the “junk vehicle program”) and whereas the Ferry District is offering a temporary fare abatement of 100%; and

Whereas the junk vehicle program will be from February 15, 2020 through March 15, 2020 to transport by truck the vehicles to its New London, CT terminal for disposal by other parties.

Therefore it is RESOLVED to set a temporary price of \$0 to move a minimum of two vehicles by truck transportation to New London, CT for disposal; and

It is further RESOLVED that this fare abatement will be for the period February 15, 2020 to March 15, 2020.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner J. Reid

Ayes: A. Ahrens, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

## **Legal**

### RESOLUTION 2020 - 016

Whereas the ferry District requires a review of its employee handbook; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby directs and authorizes Mr. Gordon Murphy to execute an agreement with Complete HR Solutions for up to \$2,000 with an annual review and update service of \$500 per year and any related ancillary documents, and authorizes management to pay invoices when properly invoiced and approved by management.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner J. Reid

Ayes: A. Ahrens, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

### RESOLUTION 2020 - 017

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

Whereas the Atlantic Broadband is the only other internet service provider that can cross the Amtrak rail lines; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby directs and authorizes Mr. Gordon Murphy to execute an agreement and any related ancillary documents with Atlantic Broadband for internet services for 36 months not to exceed \$250 per month

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

#### RESOLUTION 2020 - 018

The Fishers Island Ferry District (FIFD) has been awarded a grant to repower the M/V Race Point by replacing its two existing unregulated propulsion engines and two existing unregulated auxiliary generator sets; and

WHEREAS, the Ferry District is required to provide an Eligible Mitigation Action Management Plan to facilitate adherence to the terms of the Mitigation Trust Agreement, between the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) and Wilmington Trust; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby directs and authorizes management to execute the Mitigation Action Management Plan with DEEP subject to review by counsel

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

#### RESOLUTION 2020 - 019

WHEREAS, Gilbert Associates Inc. , a Naval Architect and Marine Engineering firm specializing in planning, design, engineering, located in Braintree, MA has provided professional naval architecture and engineering services to the Fishers Island Ferry District (FIFD) and has provided valuable input and advise to the BOC on various pending projects; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District has determined that the institutional knowledge and familiarity with the District’s two auto ferries enables Gilbert Associates, Inc. to provide efficient and expeditious professional services; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Associates, Inc. has presented a proposal to the FIFD for the provision of professional engineering services for the repowering of the M/V Race Point at like horsepower for an estimated total cost ton to exceed \$64,124.00 including 10% overage.

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has determined that it would not be in the best interests of the taxpayers of the FIFD to seek alternative proposals or quotations from other engineering firms who do not possess Gilbert’s experience and institutional knowledge.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED that the BOC waives the requirement of a second quote in Guideline 8 of the FIFD Procurement Policy; and be it further

RESOLVED that the BOC of the FIFD hereby accept the proposal of Gilbert Associates Inc. for Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering Professional Services dated January 6, 2020 and authorizes the District Manager to execute the professional services agreement, subject to the approval of District Counsel.

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

#### **HR/Legal**

#### RESOLUTION 2020 – 020

Whereas Captain Jon Hiller has decided to resign from his position as part-time Captain (FIFD); and

Therefore it is RESOLVED that with effect the end of business on January 30, 2020 Jonathan Hiller has voluntarily resigned from his part-time Captain (FIFD) position.

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

#### RESOLUTION 2020 – 021

It is resolved to rescind Resolution 2019-011.

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

#### RESOLUTION 2020 – 022

RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island District authorizes Geb Cook to enter into a Stipulation of Agreement with employee #24473 with effect Feb 13, 2020.

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

## RESOLUTION 2020 – 023

WHEREAS the Fishers Island Ferry District policy as described in the Employee Handbook and the CSEA Collective Bargaining Agreement grants a 3% longevity increase to wages when an individual has been employed by the Fishers Island Ferry District for five years; and,

WHEREAS Christopher Newell has met that requirement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that Mr. Newell's wages be increased from \$28.00 to \$28.84 per hour, effective November 13, 2019.

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

## RESOLUTION 2020 – 024

It is resolved to increase Employee 57702's hourly pay rate to \$16.00 with effect February 13, 2020; and

It is further RESOLVED to increase Employee 14021's hourly pay rate to \$21.64 with effect February 13, 2020.

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

**Free Passage** - Discussion ensued regarding the Ferry's policy granting of free passage to established churches on the Island for church related activities. The BOC has agreed that the service is important; however and would like to create a policy that would outline the requirements of free clerical passage. Management has agreed to draft a policy for the BOC to review at a future meeting.

**2020 BOC Goals** - The BOC would like to focus on Silver Eel as part of the 2020 goals. Commissioners will table for today and plan to discuss at the next BOC meeting.

**Public Comment** - Mr. Bob Evans addressed the BOC requesting clarification of policy with regard to management of and future development of the Parade Grounds and Airport Lands. Mr. Evans feels that allowing the building of an airport hangar is setting new precedent. In addition, Mr. Evans expressed concern over renting of lots without existing buildings on them and feels this is a departure from historical policy. Discussion ensued and the BOC has asked Mr. Evans to put his concerns in writing. Mr. Evans has agreed to do so.

## Executive Session

At 12:13, 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 D. Shillo  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, J. Reid and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

At 12:19, 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 J. Reid  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, J. Reid and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

**Next Scheduled Meeting is Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 4:30 PM, with a Public Hearing on Airport Rates at 5:00 PM at the Fishers Island Community Center.**

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner A. Ahrens, seconded by Commissioner J. Reid, the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 pm.