

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
April 14, 2020

Chairman Ahrens called a teleconference meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on April 14, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, William Bloethe, Jim Reid and Dianna Shillo were present. Also, in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy and Deanna Ross. There were no members of the public present via teleconference.

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

Use of Tele & Video Conferencing

RESOLUTION 2020 – 057

Whereas Executive Order 202.2 (and amended) temporarily suspends the Open Meeting Law (“OML”) requirement for public bodies to provide the public with in-person access to public meetings. Public bodies may hold a public meeting: (1) in person, without permitting the public to attend in-person; or (2) remotely, by conference call or similar service. In either case, the public must be able to view or listen to the meeting (by phone, internet live-stream; etc.) and the meeting must be recorded and later transcribed. The Order does not affect executive sessions for which the public body may continue to exclude the public.

Therefore it is RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District to adopt the temporary use of video conferencing to hold remote board meetings to conduct the business of the Ferry District; and

It is further RESOLVED to provide the public with teleconference access to these meetings and in addition to the meeting minutes a transcription will be made available on the Ferry District’s website.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Correspondence/Public Comment - Mr. Cook reported that no correspondence was received. There was no public comment.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2020 – 058

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the following meetings:

February 3, 2020
February 18, 2020
March 2, 2020
March 13, 2020 and
March 16, 2020

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2020 - 059

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated April 14, 2020, in the amount of \$63,713.61.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Traffic Update - Mr. Murphy updated the BOC. As of March 23, 2020, there has been a significant drop in traffic due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Boat trips have been decreased to 3 per day. Overall year-to-date traffic has been down from the previous year. Passengers down 24%, Vehicles down 6% and Commercial up 9%. Discussion ensued regarding current and upcoming boat schedules. Management will continue to monitor traffic on a weekly basis and keep the BOC informed.

Finance Update - Mr. Cook gave a brief update to the BOC. For the first quarter of 2020, Finances were up 34% and over \$100,000 ahead over last year. Commissioner Shillo questioned if management considered providing a discount to ferry property renters if they paid in advance. This would provide immediate funds. Management has agreed to investigate that possibility.

Management Reports

MU/RP Updates - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Both boats are running well. The vibration issue has been fixed on Munnatawket which has made a significant difference. The plan will be to run Munnatawket more since the loads have decreased. This will also provide for necessary maintenance on Race Point. M/V Silver Eel remains docked and paid through June 15, 2020. Management will continue to monitor whether Silver Eel will be needed and used this summer due to the current circumstances. Mr. Burns continues to work on the fall yard package for Race Point. Mr. Cook reviewed a letter received from Glenn Goldsmith from Suffolk County regarding the Silver Eel Cove Dredging project. Silver Eel Cove Dredging project will be included on the fall 2020/winter 2021 dredging priority list to the County.

Port Security Grant - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. A security grant is available for close to \$200,000. This grant would allow for enhancements of the current system and bring both boats, the Fishers Island terminal and the New London terminal together with a unified system. This would also include cyber security enhancement. Implementation would be in 2021.

Legal

RESOLUTION 2020 – 060

WHEREAS, M.J. Bradley and Associates, LLC (MJB&A) is transportation engineering firm providing technical and strategic advisory services to government agencies and environmental groups throughout New York and New England; and

WHEREAS, MJB&A specializes in drafting grant applications for marine vessels and port facilities; and

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has requested quotes from MJB&A for professional services and assistance in the preparation of applications and administration for available federal grants for the port security; and

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has determined that that MJB&A's experience and expertise has resulted in an award of similar grants to many of its clients;

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District has determined that the familiarity and technical expertise in the submission of these grant applications will enhance the likelihood of an award to the District; and

WHEREAS, MJB&A has presented a proposal to the BOC for the provision of professional grant writing services dated April 6, 2020, for a fee of \$3,500;

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 MJB&A's technical expertise in this field.

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 MJB&A for professional grant writing services dated April 6, 2020 not to exceed \$4,000, subject to the approval of District Counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: A. Ahrens

Executive Session

At 17:10, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Bloethe

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

At 17:33, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:30 PM. Place of meeting to be determined.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner H. Burnham, seconded by Commissioner D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.