

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
July 20, 2020

Chairman Ahrens called a teleconference meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on July 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham and Jim Reid were present. Also in attendance were Gordon Murphy, Jon Haney, Diane Hansen, Deanna Ross, Jesse Marshall and Finance Committee member Bob Coleman. Members of the public included Glenn Solomon and Chris Dollar. Commissioner Shillo was present at 5:05pm. Commissioner Bloethe was absent.

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

**Correspondence/Public Comment** - Mr. Murphy received correspondence from Elena Brim that will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Minutes**

RESOLUTION 2020 – 107

1. RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby proves the minutes of the following meetings:
  - May 18, 2020
  - May 26, 2020
  - June 8, 2020
  - June 15, 2020

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

**Warrant**

RESOLUTION 2020 – 108

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated July 20, 2020, in the amount of \$88,696.66

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

**Airport** - Chairman Ahrens welcomed guests Glenn Soloman and Chris Dollar to address the ongoing encroachment and safety issues at Elizabeth Field. Mr. Soloman reported that he witnessed two ladies walking on an active runway the other day. He also suggested that larger signs would be helpful. In addition, Mr. Soloman suggested that a NOTAM (notice to airmen) could be put out about the runway and inform any pilot that comes in and parks to not walk across the runway which seems to be problematic. Mr. Murphy reported that there has been no movement towards placing a temporary worker at the airport. Mr. Dollar spoke with Mrs. Louisa Evans and the TOS is working with the TOS Attorney in creating an ordinance that would make trespassing on the runways a finable offense. Discussion ensued. Mail to box holders are expected to go out tomorrow reminding folks to not walk or ride bicycles on the runway. In addition, Mrs. Jane Ahrens has posted on the website. Mr. Murphy reported that billing of pilots has been taking place through a system that collects AIS numbers that are then correlated to the tail numbers and address. Commissioner Burnham has suggested that someone staged at the airport on the weekends would be helpful and to keep the State Trooper involved.

**Finance/Audit** - Chairman Ahrens and the BOC would like to thank Diane and all the others involved for their hard work on the audit.

### **Audit**

Resolution 2020 - 109

Whereas the 2019 financial audit was approved by the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District.

Therefore it is RESOLVED to accept the financial audit of 2019.

It is further RESOLVED to authorize management to execute the Management Letter and have the audit and ancillary documents placed on the District website and to make copies available in the Business Office.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

**Marine Update** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. A crew meeting was held on July 14, 2020 to review the Ferry's mask protocol. Captains have been making public announcements to remind passengers of the mask protocol prior to sailing. Mr. Cook has been in conversations with Christian Arsenault regarding transportation of students when the school year starts. Mr. Haney is waiting for the final drawings and plans from the naval architect and marine electrician regarding the Race Point re-power. Once received and reviewed, RFPs should be advertised later in the week. Traffic for the week of July 13 through July 19, 2020 was reviewed. Passengers were down by 1,357, vehicles were down by 294 and commercial vehicles were down by 36 compared to the same time period in 2019. A Silver Eel charter ran today. Chairman Ahrens is working on a draft letter that will be sent out to the community giving a current snapshot of the Ferry District's financial health and the problems they are facing from decreased ridership due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Army Corp**

#### RESOLUTION 2020 – 110

Whereas the Enabling Act of April 1947 (as amended) established the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "FD"); and

Whereas in 1951 the Enabling Act was amended granting the FD the right to acquire and operate an airport and surrounding lands ("Airport Lands"); and

Whereas in 1959 the Town Board of the Town of Southold, NY ("TB") authorized the acquisition of the Airport Lands and further in 1959 the TB delegated jurisdiction and control of the Airport Lands to the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District; and

Whereas the Department of the Army ("Army") has requested that the Airport Lands owner, the Town of Southold, NY, grant two right-of-entry for environmental assessment and response for the remediation of former defense sites; and

Therefore it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the FD agree to the requested work and right-of-way and recommends that the TB execute the two right-of-entry for environmental assessment and response documents.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

#### **Legal**

#### RESOLUTION 2020 – 111

It is RESOLVED to authorize Geb Cook to execute a relationship termination letter with Blank Rome LLP for lobbying and other related legal services.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

#### **HR/DKH**

#### RESOLUTION 2020 – 112

Whereas Diane Hansen has submitted her request to retire with effect the end of business September 8, 2020; and

Therefore, it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby acknowledges Diane K. Hansen' the intent to retire from the position of Secretary with effect September 8, 2020 and to thank Ms. Hansen for her five and a half years of service to the District.

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

**Other** - The BOC thanks Ms. Diane Hansen for her years of service. An email was received from Elena Brim who found 40 old tickets and wanted to turn them in for reimbursement. The deadline to turn in old tickets was October 1, 2018 and the BOC has declined her request. Chairman Ahrens will respond. The BOC has asked management to update the Ferry website with the new charter rates and pull off the special July 4th schedule. Mr. Jesse Marshall reported that everything is good, and the crew seems happy. In addition, he informed all a free Covid testing site through Community Health that is up and running at 1 Shaw's Cove in New London. Testing is open from 9am-1pm Monday through Friday. Mr. Marshall has asked the BOC and management to plan ahead with regard to this upcoming winter and the possibility of increased demand for gas, fuel and propane. The likelihood of more residents staying on island throughout the winter months, coupled with the Race Point being in dry dock from October through May will most likely require use of the Cross Sound Ferry for such deliveries. The BOC wishes to extend their sympathies to the family of Mr. Phil Knauff who passed away on July 2, 2020. Mr. Knauff worked for the Fishers Island Ferry District for 23 years.

**Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2020 at 4:30 PM via Tele/Videoconference.**

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner H. Burnham, seconded by Commissioner A. Ahrens, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.