

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

Chairman Ahrens called a teleconference meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on August 3, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham and Jim Reid were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, Jon Haney, Diane Hansen and Jesse Marshall. Commissioners Bloethe and Shillo were absent. Members of the public included Elbert Burr.

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

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

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2020 – 113

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby proves the minutes of the May 21, 2020 meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

Nays: None

Airport - Commissioner Burnham shared communication from Mr. Chris Dollar continuing to express his safety concerns regarding the airport and lack of weekend staffing to direct pedestrians to not walk across the runway. Mr. Murphy reported that he was unable to find staffing for Saturday and he personally was there the last two Sundays. The BOC and management agree that 90% of the infringements are from pilots and their guests who land here and then walk across the runway to the beach. There has also been evidence of pedestrians walking on protected grounds where birds are nesting. Mr. Murphy believes that the NY State Trooper and local constables should be enforcing. Commissioner Reid expressed his and other concerns regarding a Citation jet that has been landing at Elizabeth Field. There has been expressed concern that the runway is too short to accommodate that aircraft. Discussion ensued. The BOC has asked management to look at outside security resources to man the airport if they couldn't find one internally. Chairman Ahrens reported that there has been an increase in littering at the beaches and the Conservancy is spending way too much time cleaning up after beach parties. Jesse Marshall suggested the possibility of bringing back some part-time employees that have been laid off due to Covid-19 and using them to man the airport. Management has agreed to look into the possibility. Mr. Burr responded that he agrees that enforcement and coordinated enforcement is lacking and correction is necessary to ensure the safety of the Island.

Other - Chairman Ahrens reported that he is working on a letter to get out to the community updating them on the financial health of the Ferry District due to Covid-19. Chairman Ahrens has asked management to look into the Federal money that has been sent to Suffolk County to support public transportation. Mr. Cook reported that he sent a message to the Government Liaison Officer, Denis Noncarrow. Mr. Murphy reported that the District has a \$20,000 CARES Grant for the Airport that has been signed by Scott Russell but awaiting forwarding to the FAA by Mr. Duffy's office. Commissioner Burnham reported that multiple islanders and Our Lady of Grace has expressed need for a late Saturday boat. Discussion ensued and management will continue to make any necessary changes to the schedule based on need.

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2020 – 114

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends the **2020** Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Decrease Appropriations		
SM5710.4.000.300	Fuel Oil, Vessels	\$1,600
		<hr/>
		\$1,600
Increase Appropriations		
SM1950.4.000.000	Property Tax	\$1,600
		<hr/>
		\$1,600

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

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2020 – 115

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated August 3, 2020, in the amount of \$35,438.90.

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

RESOLUTION 2020 – 116

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant A dated August 3, 2020, in the amount of \$24,230.69

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

Finance - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Mr. Cook explained that approving the resolution for a cash flow note now would speed up the process if in fact the District needed to borrow in October. Commissioner Burnham asked Mr. Cook how much the Covid surcharge has generated. Mr. Cook responded that passenger traffic is down 40%, vehicles down 20% and commercial down 25%. In June, the surcharge benefitted the District by approximately \$76,000 and in July, \$55,000. Mr. Cook reported that the surcharge has been a great benefit and there may be potential to not have to borrow; however, there still is another fiscal quarter to go.

Request / Legal

RESOLUTION 2020 – 116

Whereas the Fishers Island Ferry District (FIFD) anticipates a 2020-2021 revenue shortfall due to the Covid-19 Pandemic; and

Whereas the FIFD is not authorized under New York State law to borrow directly for cash-flow purposes, but the Town of Southold is authorized to borrow on behalf of the FIFD for such purposes; and

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Fishers Island Ferry District anticipates the need to borrow money to cover the shortfall in revenue and hereby states its intention to request that the Town of Southold issue a cash-flow note, pursuant to applicable New York State law, and requests that the Town Board take appropriate action to authorize and issue such a note in approximately late October 2020.

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

Marine Update - Mr. Cook has been in continued conversations with the FI School regarding chartering of the Silver Eel for students and teachers. Details continue to be worked out. Mr. Cook also asked the BOC if \$170,000 of the \$180,000 ferry boat funds could be used to replace key dolphins at the New London Terminal. These funds must be obligated by September. The BOC has given Mr. Cook approval to move forward. Mr. Haney reviewed traffic numbers with the BOC. Preparations have and continue to be made for the expected upcoming hurricane. Management continues to monitor traffic and reservations regarding the current schedule.

Insurance

RESOLUTION 2020 - 117

Whereas HilbGroup reviewed the current policies with several underwriters for each insurance category;
and

Whereas the rates from the incumbent underwriters were within expectations and competitively priced;
and

It is therefore RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Mr. Murphy to execute all policies with Great American Insurance Co., Manufacturers Alliance Insurance Co. American Equity Underwriters and American Longshore Mutual and any ancillary documents necessary to renew the Fishers Island Ferry District's 2020-2021 Property /Liability/Marine/Workers Compensation insurance policies, administered by the HilbGroup.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

Election Inspectors

RESOLUTION 2020 - 118

The Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Meredith Doyen and Deanna Ross to be Election Inspectors for the August 11th Fishers Island Ferry District Board of Commissioners election at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

HR/DKH

RESOLUTION 2020 – 119

It is RESOLVED to rescind resolution 2020 – 110

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

HR

RESOLUTION 2020 - 120

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore, it is RESOLVED to reinstate, with effect August 12, 2020, Jonathan Allen as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$13.66 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect August 14, 2020 Mr. Allen from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status Deckhands (FIFD). On September 15, 2020, Mr. Allen will terminate his summer seasonal position and on September 16, 2020 be re-appointed to part-time Deckhand (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2020 at 4:30 PM via Tele/Videoconference.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner A. Ahrens, seconded by Commissioner H. Burnham, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.