

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
August 31, 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 31, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

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

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

Correspondence/Public Comment - Mr. Murphy reported that a letter of correspondence was received from Sarah Porter requesting fare abatement for medical reasons. The BOC approved the request, and Mr. Murphy will respond to Ms. Porter. Commissioner Shillo expressed concern about fuel deliveries this winter with the Race Point out of service until spring 2021. Discussion ensued and Mr. Cook has assured the BOC that the FIFD will accommodate and will ask the USCG for an exemption of maximum riders on fuel charters. Commissioner Burnham has suggested that the BOC start considering having a discussion regarding the resident program that is on hold until October. Commissioner Burnham pointed out that there are families who have their children enrolled in school. Discussion ensued and Chairman Ahrens has suggested the BOC take it case by case. The BOC has agreed to discuss further at the next meeting. Commissioner Burnham expressed concern that there have been parties occurring at a bunker near the airport. Mr. Cook and Chairman Ahrens did assess the bunker and took several pictures of the bunker that is filled with random chairs and empty beer cans. As a safety measure, Mr. Cook will find someone with the appropriate equipment to place rocks over the two access points to close them.

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2020 – 128

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 | | |
| SM9730.6.000.000 | BAN Principal | \$20,000 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$20,000 |
| Increase Appropriations | | |
| SM9710.7.000.000 | Bond Interest | \$4,000 |
| SM9050.8.000.000 | UnemployBenefi | \$16,000 |
| | | <hr/> |

\$20,000

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

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2020 – 129

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated August 31, 2020, in the amount of \$33,241.79.

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

Tax Cap

RESOLUTION 2020 – 130

Whereas, the New York State Legislature enacted General Municipal Law Section 3-c which establishes a limit upon real property tax levies by special districts of local governments; and

Whereas, pursuant to GML Section 3-c(5), a special district may adopt a budget in excess of the tax levy limit only if the governing body of said district first adopts a resolution to override the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year only, and

Whereas, the BOC of the FIFD has determined that the adoption of a budget for the coming fiscal year in the amount of \$1,391,933 will require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax levy limit as outlined in GML Section 3-c; and

Whereas, the BOC of the FIFD duly noticed and held a public hearing on the proposed override of the tax levy limit on August 21, 2020 via a Zoom teleconference at which residents of the District were given the opportunity to be heard; Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the override of the tax levy limit for the 2021 fiscal year to allow the adoption of a budget in the amount of \$1,391,933.

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

Other - Commissioner Reid reported that he has had a conversation with Jennifer Parsons about potentially having a different tier system for ticket pricing which may include a year-round resident cost, a property owner cost and a tourist cost. Discussion ensued and it was pointed out that many properties are LLCs which could cause complications. Commissioner Burnham believes Ms. Parsons is saying the same thing that the BOC has conceptually been supportive of. Commissioner Shillo responded that the BOC has in its history had difficulty differentiating year-round residents, let alone another tier. In addition, Ms. Shillo feels that this may not be the appropriate time to implement something of this nature given the current situation of Covid and its impact on the financial wellbeing of the District. Ms. Shillo also feels that the FIFD needs a better ticketing system that can provide enhanced tracking. Mr. Cook reported that a discount book is available for non-residents. Commissioner Reid asked management where the District stands with the updated website. Mr. Cook responded that management is working toward this goal.

Marine Update - Mr. Cook updated the BOC and reported that the boats are running fine at this time. The BOC reviewed the proposed October 2020 schedule. Discussion ensued. Additional boats were added for the Columbus Day holiday weekend. In addition, the 6:15/7:00pm boats have been eliminated on Monday and Tuesday. There will be no noon boats on Wednesdays and Saturdays due to the fuel charters. Management has agreed to watch the Thursday/Friday and weekend ferry traffic during the fall months and adjust accordingly. Management will update the website with the current schedules. In addition, management will ask Mrs. Ahrens to place the new schedule on the Fishers Island website. Mr. Cook updated the BOC on the three bids received for the MV Race Point Engine Installation.

MV Race Point Engine Installation Award

RESOLUTION 2020 - 131

Whereas new engines and associated equipment are required for the M/V Race Point; and

Whereas the Fishers Island Ferry District ("District") has been awarded a grant by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to repower the M/V Race Point by replacing its two existing unregulated propulsion engines and two existing unregulated auxiliary generator sets; and

Whereas a Request for Proposals was issued and advertised in a widely circulated publication; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2020 sealed bids were received and opened by the Assistant Manager in the presence of two members of the District Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas three proposals were received, the proposals conform to the published specifications, the pricing is acceptable to management, and management recommends accepting the proposal from Thames Shipyard & Repair Co.; and

Whereas there may be unforeseen circumstances which require change orders, now therefore it is Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the bid from Thames Shipyard & Repair Co. for \$577,235.00 to install engines et al in the M/V Race Point; and

be it further Resolved to authorize management to review and authorize change orders up to \$57,724.00; the total cost not to exceed \$634,959.00, and

It is further Resolved to authorize management to execute contract and ancillary documents for this project subject to review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

Race Point Yard Package

Resolution 2020 - 132

WHEREAS, the /MV Race Point must be hauled out for biennial US Coast Guard inspection and certain required maintenance; and

WHEREAS proper public notice of the RFP was placed in The Day newspaper noting the specifics and contact details; and,

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2020 sealed bids were received and opened by the District Manager in the presence of two members of the District Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, management and MJ Bradley & Associates reviewed the bid received, assessed the value to the District, deemed it a bid favorable to the District, advised the Board of Commissioners of the terms of the bid and his recommendation to accept the bid from Thames Shipyard & Repair Co.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District approves the bid from Thames Shipyard & Repair Co. in the amount of \$147,819.00 with contingency charges on a time and materials basis not to exceed \$13,334.00; the total cost not to exceed \$162,600.90, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Management is directed to execute the contract and any ancillary documents subject to review by District counsel and to pay all amounts when properly invoiced and approved by Management.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

Nays: None

Airport

RESOLUTION 2020 – 133

Whereas Elizabeth Field airport in its 2020 FAA ACIP grant projects approved the airport road project with the FAA grant OB8-EAG-3-36-29-026-2020-Grant; and

Whereas the FAA grant will support 100% of this project; and

Whereas the FD as airport manager recommends that the project be completed; and

Therefore it is RESOLVED that the Ferry District as Airport manager recommends that the Sponsor execute and return the FAA grant offer no later than September 9th.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

HR/DKH

RESOLUTION 2020 – 134

it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby rescinds resolution 2020-122.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2020 – 122

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 of the Fishers Island Ferry District, effective September 8, 2020 and authorizes the District Manager to calculate and pay Ms. Hansen for accrued sick time in the amount of \$7,706.65 in accordance with Section 3 of the FIFD Employee Handbook. The Commissioners 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

RESOLUTION 2020 – 135

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 resign from the position of Secretary of the Fishers Island

Ferry District 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

Executive Session

At 17:35, 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 Shillo
Ayes: A. Ahrens, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo
Nays: None

At 18:01, the following resolution was proposed:

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

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

Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020 at 4:30 PM via Tele/Videoconference.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner J. Reid, seconded by Commissioner D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.