

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
September 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 September 14, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, Jim Reid and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, Jon Haney and Deanna Ross. Commissioner Bloethe joined the call for executive session at 5:20 pm. 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 George Auger requesting fare abatement for medical reasons. The BOC approved Mr. Auger’s request, and Mr. Murphy will respond to Mr. Auger. There was no public comment.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2020 – 141

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated September 14, 2020, in the amount of \$49,002.51.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

Financials/Traffic - Mr. Cook updated the BOC with July and August 2020 financials, as well as January 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 financials. For July 2020, total ferry operations were down 15% from the previous year. Respectively, total income was down 16%, fuel oil down 35%, and total expenses down 17%. Overall, net income was \$87,000 vs \$100,000 in 2019. August 2020 financials were reviewed. For August 2020, Total ferry operations were down 18% from 2019. Respectively, total income was down 15%, Fuel oil down 63%, payroll down 23% and total expenses down 6%. Overall, net income was \$45,000 vs \$95,000 in 2019. For year to date, total ferry operations were down 13%, fuel oil down 41%, payroll down 4%, total expenses up 14% and net income was \$580,000 vs \$863,000 (down 33%). Mr. Cook reported that the Ferry District is intending to borrow \$250,000 in October 2020 from the Town. August traffic numbers were reviewed. Overall Passengers were down 46%, Vehicles down 21% and Commercial down 5%.

Marine Update - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. Mr. Haney reported that things are going well with the school chartering the Silver Eel. There have been no weather or safety issues. The boat will be hauled for it’s 100 hour service either this week or next, pending on parts arrival. Service will be done between runs. Mr. Haney reported that the Ferry District received it’s waiver from the USCG to increase the passenger counts on cargo runs. The number of allowed passengers for these trips has increased from

16 to 35. This waiver is effective through May 1, 2021. Race Point will be taken out of the water somewhere between October 15, 2020 and October 20, 2020.

Other - Mr. Cook updated the BOC on dredging for Silver Eel channel. Mr. Goldsmith of the Town Trustees responded to Mr. Cook on Friday stating that there was possibility that the dredging could take place this year if everything was in place; however, would ultimately be up to Suffolk County. A follow-up email further stated that the county did not have the funds at this time to complete the project. The county is looking into federal funds. The window for dredging this year would be from October 1, 2020 through January 1, 2021. Mr. Cook will keep the BOC updated with any new developments. Commissioner Shillo reported that there was an issue with the online reservation system today. No receipt or email with details was provided. Mr. Murphy reported that this is the first of hearing this and would look into the matter. Mr. Cook reported that he will be reaching out to Beth Jepsen and Emily Cashel regarding upgrading of the current Ferry District website. Chairman Ahrens asked management if they were receiving more inquiries regarding the Residency Program. Currently the residency program is on hold until October 1, 2020. Mr. Murphy would like to present the list to the BOC prior to approval. The BOC has agreed to revisit the qualifications and possibly institute a first year probation period where there are quarterly reviews to assess if one's residency status has changed.

Walsh Park/Building 209 Project - Discussion ensued regarding the current 209 project. The North Side grounds work will remain on hold until the BOC reaches a decision with regard to the current tenants in that space. Chairman Ahrens would like this decision to coordinate with discussions regarding the future parking lot, traffic flow, as well as, the future park. Mr. Cook reported that once Walsh Park receives its Certificate of Occupancy, management will move forward with applying for a building permit for construction of bathrooms in the freight shed.

HR

RESOLUTION 2020 - 142

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires an accounting supervisor; and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to hire Linda Flynn as a full-time Business Manager I with a starting salary of \$65,000 effective September 28, 2020.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

Executive Session

At 17:20, 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, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

At 17:36, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM via Tele/Videoconference.

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 5:41 pm.