

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
January 11, 2021

Chairman Heather Burnham called a teleconference meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on January 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

Commissioners Ace Ahrens, Tom Cashel, Jim Reid and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, Jon Haney, Carol Murphy, Deanna Ross, Jesse Marshal, Polly Ford and Nick Espinosa. There were no members of the public present.

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

**Housekeeping**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 002

It is RESOLVED to elect a Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District establish a rotating chair for each meeting until further notice; and

It is further RESOLVED to elect Commissioner Burnham as chair for this meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

Abstained: T. Cashel

The BOC has agreed to discuss the 2021 BOC goals during a January 25, 2021 working session. Mr. Cook will distribute the 2020 goals to the BOC for review prior to the working session.

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

**Minutes**

RESOLUTION 2021 - 003

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby proves the minutes of the November 11, 2020, November 23, 2020 and December 7, 2020 Board of Commissioner meetings.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

Abstain: T. Cashel

## **Warrant**

RESOLUTION 2021 - 004

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated January 11, 2021, in the amount of \$97,510.50.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

**Traffic** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. December traffic has followed the same trend and is down approximately 25% year to year. Passengers were down 34% and vehicles remain unchanged. There were 52 less trips this December compared to 2019. FI School students had remote learning for 14 days after Thanksgiving and were remote the week before Christmas break. Overall for the 2020 year, passengers, vehicles and commercial were down 36,000, 5,000 and 600 respectively. The BOC has asked management to put together an analysis that shows the impact that COVID-19 has had on the Ferry District's revenue for 2020.

## **Marine**

**MU/RP Updates** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. M/V Munnatawket has been running well. An engine bus panel ("ECM") was replaced last week after it was throwing off odd codes and was not sharing the RPM reading with the gear. M/V Race Point remains at the yard and work continues on the bridge. There has been no real progress with the yard due to a Mohawk tugboat that is taking up the dry dock space that the Race Point is waiting for. Mr. Haney will be visiting the yard tomorrow. As of now this delay is not affecting the delivery date. Mr. Cook reported that the electrical drawings have yet to be approved which could cause a delay. Regarding the bow thruster, a bid was approved from Cummins last week. Four vendors were solicited, and one stipulation was they had to have the engine on the shelf and Cummins was the only one who did. Everything remains on track and management is working very closely with a local architect to complete the drawings. Mr. Haney reported that they are still waiting for the powerhead to arrive to fix the engine on MV Silver Eel.

**Dredging Update** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Mr. Cook has talked to Al Krupski from Suffolk County. A Suffolk County dredging committee meeting is coming up in January. The Fishers Island Ferry remains high on the list. Mr. Cook has inquired with Connecticut contractors who could do the work and it appears dredging will take place in fall 2021. Mr. Cook will provide more information and clarity at the next scheduled BOC meeting.

**Port Security Grant** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. Management is working on the RFP and should be out this week. This is a \$125,000 grant that pays 80% and the Ferry District pays 20%. This will provide new cameras at both terminals, Fishers Island freight building and both boats. In addition there is a cyber security element included with the grant.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Resolution 2021 - 005

WHEREAS the FIFD requires a naval architect to prepare drawings for the installation of a replacement bow thruster engine for the M/V Race Point; and

WHEREAS the FIFD has identified JMS Naval Architects of Mystic, CT to prepare such drawings; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District has determined that JMS Naval Architects has a GSA contract as per references is well qualified to provide efficient and expeditious professional services; and

WHEREAS JMS Naval Architects have quoted a price of \$10,000 for the required work; and

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 Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby ratifies and approves JMS Naval Architects for Naval Architecture Professional Services, agrees to a contracted amount not to exceed \$10,000 and authorizes Mr. Cook to enter into an agreement with JMS Naval Architects subject to review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

**Property Update** - Mr. Murphy reported that he is slowly gathering new lease agreements and insurance certificates from tenants and a second letter went out over the weekend.

**Other** - Mr. Murphy updated the BOC regarding two claims that were presented to the Ferry District. Both events took place in August 2020. The Damon settlement is for \$3,500 for damages to their vehicle while loading on the boat. The Ferry District's Insurance is refusing to cover because approval was not granted prior to work being completed. Management will respond to the claim. Discussion ensued regarding the process of initiating an accident report when an accident occurs. Another claim for \$4,800 was received today from the Fishers Island School regarding a missing fogging machine that was included on a shrink-wrapped pallet in August 2020 per the vendor. Mr. Cook will continue to investigate and at this time there is no evidence that the Ferry lost the equipment. Mrs. Polly Ford reported that when vendors deliver shrink wrapped pallets, they are only broken down when they are too high, but this was not the case with this pallet. Mr. Cook reported that he was contacted by representatives from Plum Island. In anticipation of the federal government lab relocating to Kansas, they are inquiring as to possible landing spots for ferries as they remove items from the Island. The interest in the New London dock is because we are a government entity. Mr. Cook will provide more information to the BOC as he receives it. Discussion ensued regarding COVID-19 vaccinations for the crew. Mr. Murphy reported that the Ferry District is on the Connecticut 1B list. Availability of the vaccine on Fishers Island remains unknown. Employees are encouraged to be proactive in finding available sites to get vaccinated.

**HR**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 006

The Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends Resolution 2020 – 189 by accepting and replacing Linda Flynn’s part-time termination date of January 29, 2021 to the end of business December 31, 2020.

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

*RESOLUTION 2020 – 189*

*Whereas Linda Flynn has notified the Ferry District that she intends to resign from her full-time position as Business Manager I (FIFD) (“Accounting Supervisor”); and*

*Whereas Ms. Flynn has offered to work part-time to train the new accounting supervisor with a termination at the end of business January 29, 2021; and*

*Therefore it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts Ms. Flynn’s resignation from her full-time appointment as a Business Manager I (FIFD) at the end of business on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> appoints Ms. Flynn a part-time Business Manager I (FIFD) at a rate of \$29.55 per hour; and*

*It is further RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners also accepts Ms. Flynn’s resignation from her part-time Business Manager I (FIFD) position at the end of business January 29, 2021.*

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

**HR / Salary**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 007

Whereas NY State increased its minimum wage to \$14.00 per hour with effect December 31, 2020; and

Therefore it is resolved to increase the wages of the following employees with effect December 31, 2020;

<u>EMPLOYEE</u> <u>ID</u>	31 Dec 20 Rate
46489	\$ 14.00

48246	\$ 14.00
80590	\$ 14.00
82012	\$ 14.00
31600	\$ 14.00
40949	\$ 14.00
14011	\$ 14.00
15142	\$ 14.00
16466	\$ 14.00

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

RESOLUTION 2021 – 008

Whereas the Fishers Island Ferry District has an agreement with the CSEA through December 31, 2021 (“agreement”); and

Whereas Article 8 Section A of the Agreement requires base salaries to increase by 15 with effect on January 1, 2021; and

Therefore it is resolved to increase the base rates by 1% with effect for CSEA titled positions with effect January 1, 2021 for the below employees:

<u>EMPLOYEE ID</u>	<u>2021 rate</u>
46489	\$ 14.14
48246	\$ 14.14
80590	\$ 14.14
82012	\$ 14.14
31600	\$ 14.14
40949	\$ 14.14
14011	\$ 14.14
15142	\$ 14.14

16466	\$ 14.14
47961	\$ 22.74
38461	\$ 14.42
28425	\$ 16.16
57702	\$ 16.16
83357	\$ 16.16
65578	\$ 16.46
57682	\$ 17.23
34899	\$ 20.07
32701	\$ 20.18
24473	\$ 20.60
34899	\$ 23.12
39096	\$ 25.09
37626	\$ 25.68
62812	\$ 29.71
39179	\$ 30.81
38115	\$ 31.70
58676	\$ 31.70
58369	\$ 31.71
57642	\$ 32.57
66110	\$ 37.89

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

**HR/Merit**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 009

It is RESOLVED to increase Employee 14021's hourly pay rate to \$22.72 with effect January 1, 2021.

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

### **Legal**

#### RESOLUTION 2021 – 010

Whereas Fishers Island has junked vehicles that need to be removed from the island; and

Whereas the Ferry District is offering a temporary fare abatement of 100% which is good through March 15, 2021 to transport by truck the vehicles to its New London, CT terminal for disposal by other parties; and

Therefore it is RESOLVED with effect January 15, 2021 to set a temporary price of \$0 to move a minimum of one vehicle by truck transportation to New London, CT for disposal; and

It is further RESOLVED that this fare abatement will terminate at the end of the day March 15, 2021.

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

### **Executive Session**

At 17:25, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

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

At 17:38, the following resolution was proposed:

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

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

**Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2021 at 4:00 PM via Tele/Videoconference.**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner A. Ahrens, seconded by Commissioner D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.