

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the Board of Commissioners
of the Fishers Island Ferry District**

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District was called to order on **Friday, August 19, 2011** at 6:00 pm by Chairman Brooks at the Fishers Island Community Center.

Present were Commissioners: Brooks, Burnham, Edwards and Rafferty.
Absent was Commissioner Herrick.
Nine members of the community were present.

Chairman Brooks opened the meeting and declared a quorum present.

The Board waived the reading of the Official "Notice of Meeting."

Manager Tom Doherty began the presentation of the proposed 2012 budget by informing the attendees of the impending 2% tax limit that begins with the 2013 budget. Mr. Doherty addressed each line item of the Ferry District's revenues informing the Board and attendees as to the District's current status as of July 31, 2011 in relation to the 2011 budget. Mr. Doherty then presented the expenditures line by line while impressing upon the attendees that the fluctuating fuel costs are impossible to predict and greatly affect the budget.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Jay Parsons questioned the amount of excess funds remaining in the Docks and Terms Repair line item for the year 2011. Mr. Doherty explained that most of that money has been allocated for the North Ramp repair and will soon begin to be used once the engineer presents new plans.

Peter Burr expressed his feelings that the Board may be taking advantage of the impending 2% tax limit that begins with the 2013 budget. Commissioner Brooks explained that while the new law is of concern to the Board that the primary cause for the proposed 15% tax increase is the unreliable and unpredictable cost of fuel. Commissioner Brooks also pointed out that the Board had lowered the budget in 2011 to \$650,000.00 from the \$750,000.00 that it had been in 2010 – the Board realizes now that this may have been a little premature and overly optimistic. Mr. Burr also questioned Board as to what is an acceptable amount of funds to maintain in the Fund Balance – Commissioner Rafferty informed the attendees that 10% of expenditures is acceptable but the Board feels more comfortable with a little more in place.

Jackie Williamson questioned about whether credit card fees are negotiable. The Board replied that they are and that the District had changed companies once in the past because of a better rate and that they will continue to search for the best rate available. Mrs. Williamson suggested that the Ferry District should consider a rate increase on holidays to increase revenue. Commissioner Burnham informed the attendees that the Board is investigating various options on increasing revenue.

Henry McCance asked the Board if the date of the budget to be presented to the public which was listed as line item #5 – Present 2011 Budget on the Agenda was correct. When informed that this was an error, Mr. McCance expressed his dissatisfaction that such an error had been made. Mr. Doherty accepted full responsibility and expressed his apologies.

Commissioner Brooks informed the attendees that the Ferry District had requested an extension of the August 19th budget deadline. John Cushman gave the Board until the middle of October

to present the final budget for 2012. The final vote will take place at a meeting on Columbus Day weekend.

The proposed budget for the year 2012 was approved with the stipulation that the Board may change and resubmit the budget in mid-October.

Moved by Commissioner Edwards.

Seconded by Commissioner Rafferty.

Ayes: Brooks, Burnham, Edwards and Rafferty.

Nays: none

A list of outstanding obligations of the District were reviewed and discussed. A resolution was made to pay the outstanding obligation of: **\$51,158.20** as represented in vouchers **#1726 through #1755** dated August 19, 2011 by:

Moved by Commissioner Rafferty

Seconded by Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Brooks, Burnham, Edwards and Rafferty

Nays: none

The Board discussed the Fire Department's request that the kudzu vines be removed from the training area. Mr. Doherty had already consulted with Mr. Henderson who agreed with the Fire Department's request. Commissioner Edwards would like any work to be done in coordination with Mr. Henderson and also requested to know who will pay for the removal. Mr. Doherty will outline a plan with Mr. Henderson's input and send a letter to Greg Cypherd and Greg Thibodeau.

Nominations for the Chair of the Board of the Ferry District were held. Commissioner Rafferty nominated Commissioner Brooks as Chairman which was seconded by Commissioner Burnham. The Board would like to devise a rotation plan and set term limits for the Chairman position.

Commissioner Brooks thanked retiring Commissioner Reynolds DuPont Jr. for his 35 years of service to the Ferry District and the Fishers Island community. Mr. DuPont addressed the Board and attendees with some parting comments and advice. He made references to a letter sent to the Board by Jay Parsons recently and reminded that Board that in his opinion they should try to make as many decisions in-house, that the Ferry District is the only public ferry system of its kind in the United States, that items on the agenda should not be tabled and that the ferry dock will soon have to be dredged this cost should come from the NYS transportation fund. Commissioner Brooks responded to Mr. DuPont's comments by replying that these suggestions would be taken as if he were a member of the community as opposed to being a member of the Board. Commissioner Rafferty thanked Mr. DuPont for his service and legacy of thoughts.

Marilyn Yakaitis thanked the Board for the Sunday and Thursday half-price round-trip fares for non-residents and also for the Monday 5:40 am medical half-fare.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at the Fishers Island Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine H. Edwards