

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
April 12, 2021

Chairman James Reid called a teleconference meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on April 12, 2021 at 4:02 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, Tom Cashel (joined at 4:17), and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, Jon Haney and Nick Espinosa.

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

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

Budget Mod:

RESOLUTION 2021 – 054

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends the 2021 Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Decrease Appropriations

SM5710.2.000.100 Munnatawket	\$ 140,000.00
SM5709.2.000.200Docks&Terminal	\$ 30,000.00
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	\$ 170,000.00

Increase Appropriations

SM5710.2.000.200 Race Point	\$ 170,000.00
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	\$ 170,000.00

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

Nays: None

Commissioner Shillo inquired the reasons for the very large extra cost for the yard period that resulted in a \$170,000 budget modification and several change orders. Messrs. Haney and Cook explained that it when removing one of the engines the yard found a small hole in the hull resulting in the USCG requiring a very thorough ultrasonic testing of the hull plate. The testing resulted in upwards of 600sf of plate being replaced. Other change orders were similar in nature with deck hatches and tank ladders needing replacement. It was agreed that the size and dollar amount was concerning as this does not happen over-night. Commissioner Shillo asked that management be concerned about the Munnatawket having a similar experience and that we need to budget for it.

Mr. Cook affirmed that the return date was still the end of April as long as all USCG approvals were in place. A conversation ensued on all the issues associated with a late return of the Race Point. A conversation on the Friday 3;30 trip leaving several cars ensued and Chairman Reid asked that management compare reservations not used and stand-bys.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2021 – 055

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated April 12, 2021, in the amount of \$552,614.97.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

Mr. Cook was asked to comment on the return date of the Race Point, and he affirmed that the return date was still the end of April. A conversation ensued on all the issues associated with a late return of the Race Point. A conversation on the Friday 3;30 trip leaving several cars ensued.

Marine

RESOLUTION 2021 – 056

Whereas the M/V Race Point is at the Thames Shipyard Repair Company receiving its biennial maintenance haul-out and repair; and

Whereas, the US Coast Guard is required to inspect vessels during the vessels' haul-out; and

Whereas ultrasonic testing was performed on the hull and various components by the Coast Guard; and

Whereas the US Coast Guard determined that over 600sf of hull plate plus framing, a stern tube and other components needed replacement which exceeded the budget and are categorized in several change orders; and

Therefore it is RESOLVED that the US Coast Guard mandated \$170,000 in additional material and labor are authorized to be paid when properly invoiced.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

A conversation over the proposed ferry rates ensued. Topics included that stand-by should have a value and reservations a lesser value. Chairman Reid asked that management compare reservations not used

and standby. It was decided to hold a special meeting at 4:00 PM on Monday, April 19 to discuss rates exclusively.

Mr. Haney went over the March traffic numbers with passengers and commercial being up, cars slightly down and less trips year to year. The May schedule was presented, and management was asked to investigate adding two freight boats during the week. The May schedule was presented with the Memorial Day weekend special schedule. It was noted that Monday & Tuesday were light in comparison to pre-2020, but there is room to add additional trips. Mr. Haney also gave a brief overview of the Port Security Grant camera project with the Race point completed, the NL terminal almost completed, and the company will start Fishers Island and the Munnatawket in two weeks. The new SonicWALL firewalls have been installed at both terminals and an additional legacy VPN was removed from service as part of this grant.

Mr. Cook reported on the FICC's request to charter a ferry to watch the West Harbor fireworks. It was generally agreed that the board was not comfortable at this time having an event like that due to Covid and that the BOC would revisit the request in May.

Mr. Cook reported on the seawall that an RFP was prepared and published in the local newspaper. Responses are due on April 29th for a fall work period.

Mr. Murphy reported that the drafting has stalled on the proposed Town airport ordinance due to two varying "visions" by local pilots. Mr. Murphy is trying to schedule a meeting to iron out the differences.

Mr. Cook reported on a request by the HL Ferguson Museum to lease up to two pallet's worth of boxes in excess space in Building 209. A brief discussion ensued on the type of material and access for other parties' to the space. It was agreed to lease the space to the Museum at a minimum of \$100 per month. Mr. Cook would follow up with the Museum Director. Mr. Cook also reported that a neighbor has expressed interest in renting the land north of their building that is currently being leased by Z&S. A brief discussion ensued on the process of leasing this land (highest bidder, etc.), parking area beautification and the status of the current tenant.

Executive Session

At 17:21, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining.

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

At 17:33, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo
Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham
Ayes: H. Burnham, T. Cashel, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

To confirm a special meeting will be held via video conference on Monday, April 19th at 4:00 PM for the purpose of discussing the passenger and vehicular rates.

Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 26th at 4:00 PM with a 5:00 PM public hearing on ferry rates.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner Burnham, seconded by Commissioner Cashel the meeting was adjourned at 5.44 pm.