

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
May 10, 2021

Chairman Jim Reid called a teleconference meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on May 10, 2021, at 4:00 PM with a public hearing on fare rollback scheduled for 5:00pm.

Commissioners Ace Ahrens, Heather Burnham, Tom Cashel and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, Jon Haney, Deanna Ross and Jesse Marshall. There were no members of the public present.

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

**Correspondence/Public Comment** - Mr. Cook reported that correspondence was received from Lighthouse Works regarding the 2021 public art commission. The BOC expressed support and looks forward to it.

#### **Warrant**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 068

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated May 10, 2021, in the amount of \$81,719.57.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

#### **Management Reports**

**MU/RP/Silver Eel Updates** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. An additional trip was added on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to increased demand. MV North Star continues to be used for some larger runs of commercial traffic. MV Munnatawket continues to have electrical issues and displaying faulty codes on the new electronic engines. A new ECM was ordered for the starboard engine and awaiting install. Twin Disc and Cummins were down this week to inspect their equipment. The crew continues with more maintenance on MV Race Point. There is scheduled machinery start up with Cummins this Thursday and Friday with a backup date of the following Monday. This will include a DVTP (Design Verification Test Procedure), as well as a sea trial with Cummins and Twin Disc on board. The USCG inspection will occur after that pending the approval of the electrical plan. The USCG is tentatively scheduled for May 17th through May 21st. In addition, the annual inspection and training of captains on the new systems need to take place. Management is hopeful that Race Point will be back in service for the Memorial Day holiday weekend. MV Silver Eel’s engine is expected to arrive at the end of the month and currently on a

boat from Japan. When it arrives, it is expected to take 16 hours to replace the engine. Mr. Cook will send out an update to the public on May 20, 2021.

## Legal

### RESOLUTION 2021 - 069

Whereas two protective seawalls were damaged at Elizabeth Field Airport by Hurricane Sandy on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012; and

Whereas the Fishers Island Ferry District ("District") has been awarded a grant by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

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

WHEREAS, on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2021 sealed bids were received and opened by the Manager in the presence of one member of the District Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas two proposals were received, the proposals conform to the published specifications, the pricing is acceptable to management, and management recommends accepting the proposal from Mattern Construction, Inc.; and

Therefore it is Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the lowest responsible bid from Mattern Construction, Inc. for a Base Bid of \$132,000 (Shoreline Protection Measures) and the Alternate Bid (Enhanced Shoreline Protection Measures) of \$214,100. The total cost not to exceed \$214,100.

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 Burnham

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

Nays: None

**RAISE Grant** - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that a grant that is associated with infrastructure has become available and MJ Bradley feels that the FIFD is a good candidate for it. This could potentially cover the corner ramp and terminal building on Fishers Island and the dolphins at the New London terminal. Management has asked MJ Bradley for a proposal which would be due in mid-July.

**April Traffic** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. April 2021 traffic was reviewed compared to April 2020 traffic. Passengers are up 194%, Vehicles up 157% and Commercial up 64%. Vehicle traffic was up over 2019 and 2018 traffic in part due to the commuter program and more passengers bringing vehicles as opposed to walking on the boat because they felt safer in their vehicles than the passenger cabin. The crew continues to enforce mask protocols. On time percentage is down 7% mostly due to a dramatic increase in freight, very full boats and increased trips with less turnaround time. Discussion occurred regarding egress with full boats. The crew continues to follow federal regulations and for the safety of

passengers, will continue to require passengers to get out of their vehicles when proper egress is not available.

**Other** - The BOC reported that many of them have received feedback that the ferry schedule is difficult to locate on the new website. Discussion ensued. Mr. Murphy will correct the issue. Mr. Cook reported that management and ticketing agents met with Fair Harbor today. Mr. Cook is hopeful to implement the new ticketing system June 1, 2021.

### **Public Hearing on Fare Rollback**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby opens a public hearing on the 2021 Fare Rollback at 5:01 PM.

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

Mr. Cook presented the proposed fare rates with a start date of June 1, 2021. There was no public comment.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby closes the public hearing on the 2021 Fare Rollback and re-enters general session at 5:08 PM.

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

### **Executive Session**

At 17:11, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

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

At 17:21, the following resolution was proposed:

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

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

## Rates

Resolution 2021 – 070

It is RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District to roll back fares with effect June 1, 2021 as follows.

<b>Ticket Category</b>	<b>NEW RATE</b>
Auto Ferry Rates (round rip)	Yr Round
Full Fare - Adult	\$27.00
Senior / Child	\$20.00
FI School Student	\$8.00
Child (<5)	Free
Resident Adult	\$10.00
Resident Senior/Child	\$7.00
Automobile	\$66.00
Automobile - oversized*	\$76.00
Res - Automobile	\$26.00
Res - Automobile - oversized*	\$36.00
No-Driver fee	\$19.00
One-way passenger (FI departure)	\$15.00
Bicycles/Motorcycles	\$55.00
Commuter Books	
Adult (10x)	\$242.00
Adult (20x)	\$400.00

Auto (10x) \$560.00

Reservations - Peak \$5

Reservations - Off-Peak \$5

Reservation Change fee \$5

\* Oversized - > 18' long and/or 6'6" high \$10

Silver Eel - Fast Ferry Rates \$20 each way M - F 7am to 12:30pm

\$25 each way M - F 12:30pm - 5pm

\$30 each way M - Sat 5pm - 7am (the following day)

\$30 each way Sun 7am - Mon 7am

Silver Eel COMMUTER 10 tix

\$260 10 Pack restricted to Morning and afternoon COMMUTER/ Round trip

Silver Eel CHARTER

\$300 One way SE Cove up to 7pm daily - + \$50 after 7pm

\$350 One way NL to FI Club

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\$250/hour min 2 hours wait  
time

Freight                      Reduce 10% to pre-COVID increase

Commercial                 Reduce 10% to pre-COVID increase

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

## HR

### RESOLUTION 2021 - 071

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional full-time Deckhands (FIFD) during the peak season between May 15, 2021, and September 15, 2021; and

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 19, 2021, Kevin Hurley as summer seasonal Deckhand (FIFD); and

It is further RESOLVED that on September 15, 2021, Kevin Hurley will terminate his summer seasonal positions and on September 16, 2021, be re-appointed to part-time Deckhands (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

### RESOLUTION 2021 - 072

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires part-time deckhands; and

Whereas Adam Sproul was appointed via resolution 2021-052; and

Whereas Mr. Sproul has not worked for the Ferry District; and

Therefore it is RESOLVED to rescind Resolution 2021-052 appointing Mr. Sproul as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2021 - 073

**RESOLVED** that the Commissioners of the Fishes Island Ferry District hereby grants a leave of absence for up to 12 weeks to Employee #39096 effective May 10, 2021 pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

**Other** - Commissioner Ahrens reminded management and the BOC that Commissioner Heather Burnham will be up for re-election in August 2021.

**Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24, 2021, at 4:00 PM at the Island Community Center and via Tele/Videoconference.**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner H. Burnham, seconded by Commissioner D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm.