

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
June 7, 2021

Chairman Jim Reid called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on June 7, 2021, at 4:00 PM at the Island Community Center and via teleconference.

Commissioners Ace Ahrens, Heather Burnham and Dianna Shillo were present. Commissioner Tom Cashel attended via phone. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, Jon Haney and Deanna Ross. 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 he received a letter from Ms. Diana Fiske requesting reimbursement for the difference of a book of tickets purchased at a higher ticket price due to the Covid Surcharge and the current decreased ticket price effective June 1, 2021. The BOC has refused this request and Mr. Cook will respond to Ms. Fiske. Mr. Cook also received correspondence from Todd McCormack requesting permission to clear sumac on the first fairway at Hay Harbor. The BOC has granted permission to Mr. McCormack. There was no public comment.

**Warrant**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 080

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated June 7, 2021, in the amount of \$45,593.32.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

**Budget Mod**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 081

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**

SM5710.4.000.300Fuel Oil,Vessel \$ 40,000.00

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\$ 40,000.00

**Increase Appropriations**

5SM5710.2.000.200 Ferry Repairs: Race Point \$ 40,000.00

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\$ 40,000.00

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo  
Seconded by: Commissioner Reid  
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. MV Munnatawket is being used as the manifest allows and for the daily 6:15 runs. An oil change was done today and there are a few repair items that are being taken care of when Race Point is being used. MV Race Point came out of the shipyard on May 27, 2021, and running the 7:00, 11:30 and 3:30 trips daily. Race Point is tentatively scheduled for another haul-out next week to certify the engines by the manufacturer. Currently she is running at 1730 RPMs, and it should be 1830 RPMs. This is a result of too much pitch on the propellers. Expected haul-out is from 6/14/21-6/18/21. Mr. Haney reported that the captains are pleased with the boat. Mr. Haney and Mr. Cook continues to have conversations with the Naval architect to hold them accountable for the incorrect pitch. Several credits have been received by Gilbert Associates. Silver Eel's engine arrived on June 3, 2021, and is currently being installed. The boat should be back this Wednesday, June 9,2021. Once the boat arrives back to New London, there will be training with the crew and review of the Fair Harbor ticketing. Silver Eel is scheduled to be in service on Monday, June14, 2021. Mr. Cook reported that the ticketing agents have voted against switching all the ticketing to Fair Harbor at this time. In addition, a part time employee from Cross Sound will be coming on board to assist with ticketing in the New London office. Management reported that the current schedule has been accommodating the current traffic and no cars have been left behind, but they are prepared to run more if needed.

**Legal/City Pier**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 082

WHEREAS, the MV Silver Eel fast ferry requires dockage at the City Pier, New London, CT.

WHEREAS, the Port Authority of the City of New London has offered City Pier dockage for the sum of \$1800 per month from June 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fishers Island Ferry Board of Commissioners authorizes the Ferry Manager, Geb Cook, to sign on behalf of the Fishers Island Ferry subject to Town Attorney or District counsel approval.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

Nays: None

**Health Insurance & Vision Plan** - Mr. Murphy reported that Commissioner Shillo and he reviewed the plans offered by the Gowrie Group and the Ferry District will continue with the same plan as the previous year. The plan did have an increase of 11%.

### **Legal/Health Insurance**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 083

WHEREAS the District desires to put in place new health insurance coverage for its qualified employees commencing July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS the insurance broker Gowrie Group presented insurance options; and

WHEREAS the Oxford Bronze PPO HRA 6700 health insurance plan (the “Plan”) was selected based on coverage and terms; and

WHEREAS the Oxford Bronze PPO HRA 6700 health insurance plan is a high deductible plan and a Health Reimbursement Account (“HRA”) can be combined with this health insurance plan, requiring the services of a third-party HRA plan administrator, and Progressive Benefit Solutions, LLC was selected to provide these services; and

WHEREAS the District through the HRA will reimburse employees enrolled in the Plan up to \$5,000 per single employee or up to \$10,000 per enrollee greater than a single employee for Plan year out-of-pocket expenses; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that commencing July 1, 2021, the District shall make available to its qualified employees the Oxford Bronze PPO HSA 6700 health insurance plan; and

be it further RESOLVED that management is authorized to execute all documents relating to the Plan subject to review by counsel; and

be it further RESOLVED that commencing July 1, 2021, the District authorizes management to execute all documents relating to establishment of and oversight over a HRA with Progressive Benefit Solutions, LLC subject to review by counsel; and

be it further RESOLVED that for the year commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, only, the District shall fund the HRA sufficiently to reimburse employees enrolled in the Plan up to \$5,000 per single employee or up to \$10,000 per enrollee greater than a single employee for plan year out-of-pocket expenses; and

be it further RESOLVED that management be authorized and instructed to work with the Gowrie Group to review any other related documents and in general to finalize and put in place these two related health care coverage programs commencing July 1, 2021, subject to review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

**Vision Plan**

RESOLUTION 2021 - 084

WHEREAS Employees of the District who are members of the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., as well as unaffiliated District employees, desire to put in place vision insurance coverage commencing July 1, 2021, in which participation is voluntary and for which participants will pay 100% of their coverage premium; and

WHEREAS the insurance broker Gowrie Group presented options; and

WHEREAS the Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Small Groups Insurance plan was selected based on coverage and terms;

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that commencing July 1, 2021, the District shall make available to its employees the Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Small Groups insurance plan and authorize management to execute all contract and ancillary documents relating to the Plan subject to review by counsel; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that management be authorized and instructed to work with the Gowrie Group to review any other related documents as the case may be and in general to finalize and put in place this vision care coverage program commencing July 1, 2021

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

**Munnatawket Noise Report** - Mr. Cook highlighted the important points of the recent Noise Report that was completed. The analyst found that the boat has the wrong size muffler, the exhaust is too large, and the engines are rigid mounted vs. flex mounted, all of which are contributing to a noise level that is over 85 decibels on the aft deck. Management will post noise level signs. These repairs will take place during the fall yard period.

**Legal/UPS**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 085

Whereas the Ferry District's contract expires with United parcel Service ("UPS") on May 31, 2021; and

Whereas the District has a special freight tariff for UPS freight and this rate is borne entirely by UPS, not the receiving customer; and

Therefore, be it RESOLVED to authorize Gordon Murphy to execute the five-year contract and any ancillary documents subject to review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

**IT - CyberSecurity Update** - Mr. Murphy updated the BOC. Enhanced firewalls were part of the Port Security Grant. Mr. Murphy feels that the current cybersecurity in place is adequate at this time.

**Property**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 086

WHEREAS, the Ferry District has observed that Ferry District managed Town property is being used for long term storage of utility and boat trailers.

WHEREAS, no fee exists for such storage; and

THEREFORE, it is RESOLVED that beginning July 1, 2021, all trailers will be charged a monthly rate of \$125/ per trailer.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

**Other** - Commissioner Burnham has requested management to communicate and reiterate policies regarding picking up of freight as volume increased. Management has agreed to craft an email and have Jane Ahrens post on the Fishers Island Website. Mr. Murphy feels that it would be well worth the Ferry District's efforts to write a letter to the Town Supervisor and Town Board of Southold to let them know the District's interest in the USCG Station property on Fishers Island.

**HR**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 087

Whereas certain personnel appointment hire/ start dates have to be adjusted; and

Therefore it is resolved to amend the start /hired dates for the following:

David Ferace	April 24, 2021
Lucas Muti	May 30, 2021
Christopher Baker	May 7, 2021
Jonathan Hiller	May 21, 2021
Kevin Hurley	May 19, 2021
Mark Boehm	April 25, 2021

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

### **HR / Hire**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 088

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional summer seasonal labor help in freight operations; and

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect June 10, 2021, Michael Barnwell as a summer seasonal laborer at \$14.00 per hour and with effect June 21, 2021, Peter Sanger as a summer seasonal laborer at \$14.00 per hour; and

On September 15, 2021, Messrs. Barnwell and Sanger will terminate their summer seasonal positions.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

### **HR/Other**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 089

It is resolved to rescind resolution 2021-060.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2021 - 090

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional full-time Account Clerk Typists (FIFD) and Cashiers (FIFD) during the peak season; and

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 15, 2021, Katarzyna Asmolov and Karina Curbelo from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 15, 2021, Ms. Asmolov and Ms. Curbelo will terminate their summer seasonal position and on September 16, 2021, be re-appointed to part-time Account Clerk Typist (FIFD) and Cashier (FIFD) respectively.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

#### **HR / Hire**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 092

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Ticket Agents (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect June 7, 2021, Lauren Paterson as a part-time Cashier (FIFD) at a rate of \$14.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect June 8, 2021, Ms. Paterson from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 15, 2021, Ms. Paterson will terminate her summer seasonal position and on September 16, 2021, be re-appointed to part-time Ticket Agent (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

#### **HR / Hire**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 093

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect June 7, 2021, Joel Ludka as a summer seasonal Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$14.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED that on September 15, 2021, Mr. Ludka will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

#### **HR/Merits**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 094

WHEREAS, in recognition of our employees continued and faithful service during the Covid pandemic, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to increase the wage rates of the following employees effective June 17, 2021.

ALLEN, Jonathan	14011	H	14.42
ASMOLOV, Katarzyna	14021	H	23.17
BENTLEY, Kyle	15142	H	14.42
BRIDGMAN, Chriss	16466	H	15.50
CARROLL, Kevin	24473	H	21.10
CURBELO, Karina	28425	H	16.48
DORSETT, Kristopher	32701	H	20.77
EAGAN, Daniel	34899	H	28.56
ESPINOSA, Nicholas	37626	H	26.19
FIORA, Michael	38115	H	32.33
FORD, Polly	39096	H	25.59
FRANCO, Michael	39179	H	31.42
KUCSERA, Hunter	46489	H	14.42
LAVIN, Robert	47961	H	23.42
LEESE,John	48246	H	14.42
MARSHALL, Jesse	57642	H	33.22
MASON, Rhamir	57682	H	18.10
MIRABELLI, Anthony	58369	H	32.65
MORGAN, John	58676	H	32.33
NEWELL, Christopher	62812	H	30.30
ORTIZ, Leonard	65578	H	16.50
PARADIS,John	66110	H	37.89
SPOHN, Evan	80590	H	14.42

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

**HR - Promotion**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 096

WHEREAS Nathan White has exceeded the requirements of the Freight Agent (FIFD) position; and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to promote Mr. White's to Advanced Agent and increase wages to \$17.50, with effect June 17, 2021.

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

**HR - Promotion**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 097

WHEREAS Jasmin McCarthy has exceeded the requirements of the Freight Agent (FIFD) position; and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to promote Ms. McCarthy to Advanced Agent and increase wages to \$17.50, with effect June 17, 2021.

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

**Executive Session**

At 17:53, 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 J. Reid  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

At 18:17, 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 J. Reid  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

**HR / Bonus**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 091

Whereas the Fishers Island Ferry District Board of Commissioners wishes to show its appreciation to its employees for extraordinary service; and

Whereas the Ferry District employs Captains, Deckhands, Cashiers, Freight Agents, accounting staff and supervisory personnel; and

Therefore, it is RESOLVED to award the one-time merit payment to the employees listed below in appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the Fishers Island Ferry District for their work towards assisting with the repowering of the M/V Race Point as well as certain employees that took on additional duties during the winter/ spring of 2021.

FISHERS ISLAND FERRY DISTRICT ONE-TIME MERIT

NAME	Payment
BRIDGMAN, Chriss	\$ 1,000
FORD, Polly	\$ 1,000
FRANCO, Michael	\$ 2,000
LAVIN, Robert	\$ 1,250
MARSHALL, Jesse	\$ 1,250
MIRABELLI, Anthony	\$ 1,250
PARADIS, John	\$ 2,000
WHITE, Nathan	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$ 10,750

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

**HR**

RESOLUTION 2021 - 095

WHEREAS the following Steven Conary has exceeded the requirement of both of his positions;

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to promote Steven Conary to full time Cashier (FIFD) at an hourly wage rate of \$17.00 for both his part-time Deckhand (FIFD) and full-time Cashier (FIFD) positions with effect June 17, 2021.

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

**HR - Promotion**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 098

WHEREAS Jonathan Haney has exceeded the requirements as Marine Operations Supervisor with focus on ship compliance, staff management, and training; and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to promote Mr. Haney to Marine Operations Manager and increase salary to \$90,000, with effect June 17, 2021.

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

**HR - Increase**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 099

WHEREAS Gordon Murphy has served competently as our island-based Business Manager; and

WHEREAS Mr. Murphy has not taken a salary increase in more than 3 years; and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to increase Mr. Murphy's salary and to \$106,970, with effect June 17, 2021.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo  
Seconded by: Commissioner Reid  
Ayes: Ayes: A. Ahrens, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo

Nays: None

**Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 21, 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 A. Ahrens, seconded by Commissioner H. Burnham, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.