

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

Chair Shillo called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on December 7, 2021, at 4:00 PM at the Island Community Center and via videoconference.

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

Chair Shillo 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. Dee Ross, a tenant living above the freight shed, expressed concern about wind scattering PeaPod bins and plastic bags that are left inside the bins around the property after delivery on Thursdays. Discussion ensued and management has agreed to investigate practical solutions to secure the bins and their contents. Commissioner Burnham reported that it was brought to her attention that over the Thanksgiving weekend, there was a day that the stager on the Fishers Island side informed some vehicles that they were late for their reservation but failed to tell them to get in the standby lane and vehicles that came after them in the standby lane got on before them. Management will address the issue.

**Budget Modification**

RESOLUTION 2021 – 184

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby rescinds Resolution 2021 – 172; and

It is 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**

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5SM1910.4.000.500	Silver Eel Expense: Ferry Insurance	5,400.00
5SM5710.4.000.350	Silver Eel Expense: Fuel	3,148.83
5SM5710.4.000.910	Silver Eel Expense: CC Card/Fees	1,736.33
5SM1310.4.000.000	Accounting/Finance	3,607.66

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5SM1910.4.000.100	Ferry Insurance	112.93
5SM1910.4.000.200	Airport Insurance	350.00
5SM5610.2.000.000	Airport Capital	15,000.00
5SM5610.4.000.000	Elizabeth Airport CE	5,967.92
5SM5709.2.000.100	Repairs: Rental Building	10,000.00
5SM9030.8.000.000	Social Security	6,000.00
5SM9050.8.000.000	Unemployment Benefits	20,000.00
5SM9060.8.000.000	Medical Insurance	26,696.24
5SM5710.4.000.100	Utilities-NL	11,212.97
5SM5710.4.000.200	Utilities-FI	5,000.00
5SM5710.4.400.100	Marine Engineering	1,463.30
5SM1950.4.000.000	Property Taxes	321.23
5SM9710.7.000.000	Bond Interest	0.61
5SM9730.7.000.000	BAN Interest	8,564.48

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**124,582.50**

**Increase Appropriations**

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5SM5710.2.000.200	Ferry Repairs: Race Point	3,000.00
5SM5709.2.000.200	Repairs: Docks & Terminal	85,000.00

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5SM7155.4.000.000	Other Repairs: Theater	10,000.00
5SM1930.4.000.000	Ferry Ops: Insurance Claims	1,582.50
5SM5710.4.000.900	Ferry Ops: Bank/CC Fees	5,000.00
5SM5710.4.000.625	Ferry Ops: Terminal Supplies	10,000.00
5SM1420.4.000.000	Legal Fees	10,000.00
		<b>124,582.50</b>

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

**Warrant**

RESOLUTION 2021 - 185

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated December 6, 2021, in the amount of \$99,167.23

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

**Management Reports**

**Marine Update** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. Race Point has had some starting and throttle issues. Twin Disc and Cummins have both been down several times to investigate the issue since it first became a problem on November 8, 2021. There was a recent event this past Saturday with no throttle. The engine was restarted and there have not been any issues since. The problem was still reported to Cummins and Mr. Haney is waiting to hear back. Management has established a procedure that when the boat is started in the morning, it is put into gear and back it down to the dock and stays in gear while idling. Mr. Haney reported that this is an electronic control module issue. Munnatawket will not go to dry dock until after Christmas. Thames is waiting for exhaust mufflers and mounts before accepting Munnatawket to the shipyard. Thames received notification from the vendor that these parts should be arriving within 7-10 business days. Management will look into maintenance tasks that may be

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accomplished on Munnatawket before going to the yard. The five-year USCG Inspection is due February 16, 2022. This is a requirement for COI. Mr. Haney contacted the USCG to see if they wanted to do the inspection before the boat went to the shipyard but they want to wait until the boat is complete at the yard and after the haul inspection. The yard package is expected to take eight weeks. Ft. Rachel informed Mr. Haney that there is no new date for the delivery of the outboards for Silver Eel. Mr. Haney reported that due to the supply chain issue, full engines or power heads can be delayed up to one year. JMS Naval Architects are working on calculations for the new 400s and will provide to Brick's Marine. Discussion ensued. The BOC has asked management to get a timeline from JMS and will address how to move forward at the next BOC meeting.

**Dredging Update** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Dredging has been completed. The second step will be grading of the spoils. Erosion control will be placed by Race Rock. Over 2500 yards was removed during the dredging.

**Traffic Update** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. November traffic number were up and looked good for the month. Overall Passengers, Vehicles and Commercial were up 15%, 5%, and 6% respectively compared to 2020. On time percentage continues to improve.

**Seawall Update** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Management is awaiting FEMA's final approval and once approved, the Ferry District will receive a \$125,000 grant for the seawall project that previously was awarded to Mattern Construction. Mr. Cook is expecting the project to take place after January 1, 2022 and is hoping for a completion by February 15, 2022. Mr. Cook informed the BOC that during 2021, the Fishers Island Ferry District has received two Million in grant and government related work that they did not have to pay for. The BOC applauds management for getting these grants.

**Other**

**Mail Delivery Contract Award**

RESOLUTION 2021 - 186

Whereas Mail delivery is required from the Fishers Island Ferry Terminal on Fishers Island to the US Post Office on Fishers Island; and

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

Whereas one proposal was received, the proposal conforms to the published specifications, the pricing is acceptable to management, and management recommends accepting the proposal from William Bloethe; and

now therefore it is Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the bid from William Bloethe to transport mail in an enclosed protected vehicle six days per week, to and from the Post Office; and be it further

Resolved to authorize management to accept the bid at \$900 per month for 3 years with effect January 1, 2022; and

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It is further Resolved to authorize management to execute contract and ancillary documents for this project after review by District and Town counsel.

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

**Medical Fare Abatement Request** - Mr. Murphy reported that he received requests from Jill Rogan and Betty Peishoff requesting fare abatement for medical purposes. The BOC approves both requests.

**Union Chapel Minister** - Correspondence was received from Sarah Porter requesting forms and rules for travel for the new Union Chapel Minister. Mr. Murphy has agreed to reach out to the new minister and provide her with this information.

**Logistics/UPS Approval** - The BOC has asked Mr. Cook and Mr. Murphy to follow up with UPS and get more information regarding their consulting proposal prior to authorizing it.

**Review Job Description** - Management and the BOC reviewed and discussed the job description of the new Fishers Island Manager position that will take the place of Mr. Murphy upon his retirement.

**Army Corps Letter** - Mr. Murphy reported that he received clarification from the US Army Corps of Engineers that the possible munitions that may pose an explosive hazard to the public are in the water.

**Minimum Wage**  
RESOLUTION 2021 – 187

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to increase the wage rates to \$15.00 for the following individuals with effect December 31, 2021.

ALLEN, Jonathan  
BARNWELL, Michael  
BOEHM, Mark  
CAREY, Quinn  
DENISON, David  
EDELMAN, Abigail  
FERACE, David  
HURLEY, Kevin  
KUCSERA, Hunter  
LEESE, John  
MUTI, Lucas  
PATERSON, Lauren  
SPOHN, Evan  
SOULOR, Adam  
SMITH, Russell

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

**Executive Session**

At 17:15, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal matters.

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

At 17:58, the following resolution was proposed:

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

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

**Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 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 D. Shillo, seconded by Commissioner H. Burnham, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 pm.