

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Commissioners

Fishers Island Ferry District

August 8, 2022

Chair Cashel called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on August 8, 2022 at 4:30pm at the Island Community Center and via ZOOM.

Commissioner Ace Ahrens, Heather Burnham, Tom Cashel and Jim Reid were present. Commissioner Shillo arrived shortly thereafter. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Carol Murphy, David McCall and Jon Haney.

Chair Cashel established that a quorum was present. Everyone in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

Correspondence/Public Comment: Geb lead off with a discussion of a letter recently received from Arthur Patterson concerning recent lateness in the Ferry operations. Geb also mentioned a positive text from Molly Schafer which praised the crew for its effort and good work. Further discussion ensued of scheduling, lateness, freight and timing. Agreed to table the conversation until we have Jon Haney on ZOOM.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2022-124

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the following minutes: July 25, 2022.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2022-125

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated July 25, 2022, in the amount of \$59,727.59

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

HR- RESIGNATION

RESOLUTION 2022 - 126

WHEREAS Jonathan Allen has resigned from his position as part-time Deckhand (FIFD) with the Fishers Island Ferry District effective Monday August 1, 2022;

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts the resignation of Mr. Allen with effect August 1, 2022. Mr. Allen has no paid time off accruals and no further payments are due to him.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

HR NEW HIRE

RESOLUTION 2022-127

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect August 11th, 2022, Dylan Benjamin as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$15.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect August 11, 2022 Mr. Benjamin from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 14, 2021, Mr. Benjamin will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and on September 15, 2022 be re-appointed to part-time Deckhand (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

Theater Roof Amendment

RESOLUTION 2022-128

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners (BOC) of the Fishers Island Ferry District (FIFD) approved resolution 2022-079 for the installation of a new roof on the Fishers Island Theater for \$105,640.

WHEREAS, unforeseen additional repairs to the roof are necessary at a cost of \$25,432.40, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the BOC of the FIFD approves the change in appropriation and amends the installation cost from \$105,640.00 to \$131,072.40 to include Change Order #1 totaling \$25,432.40.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

HR

RESOLUTION 2022-129

It is RESOLVED that Karina Curbelo be appointed Full-time Account Clerk Typist (FIFD) with effect August, 24, 2022, and be released from her current Part Time Cashier (FIFD) at the end of business August 23, 2022 with a new salary of \$21.00 per hour.

Move by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

Budget Mod

RESOLUTION
2022-130

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends the 2022 Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Increase Appropriations

SM.5710.2.000.200	Repairs: Race Point	\$ 2,000
		<hr/>
		\$ 2,000

Decrease Appropriations

SM.5709.2.000.200	Repairs: Docks & Terminals	\$ 2,000
		<hr/>
		\$ 2,000

MOVED by Commissioner Shillo
SECONDED by Commissioner Reid
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham, Cashel, Reid and Shillo
Nays:

Theater Update—Commissioner Cashel explained what had happened within the Board of the FFIT and that Andrew Benkard is now at the helm. Geb Cook expressed a willingness to sign the Letter of Intent to move everything forward. The Letter was amended to allow 30 more days . Full Board—AA, HB, TC, JR and DS—minuted approval of amended letter. A discussion ensued concerning parking at the theater and the need to lay out a clear map of what is where. The FI Conservancy, FI Ferry and FFIT should all be a party to a drawing/map laying out boundaries.

Fishers Island Seagrass Management- Ace explained he had read the plan and was happy with it. It goes to the ICB meeting tomorrow. Commissioner Burnham explained that the teth had been taken out of the proposal.

Lateness--Commissioner Shillo began by stating that the consistent lateness of the boats was a severe problem and out of control. Jon Haney was on the call by now and explained that the combination of increased freight and passenger/vehicle volume is causing the delays. Commissioners asked Haney to address the lateness with reasons, not excuses. Jon Haney began by explaining that the number one reason by lateness was staffing related. It is very hard to get and retain qualified good people. There is competition from EB and other employers. There is a lot of turnover and hiring green workers results in delays. He explained that staffing, freight, volume and inexperience all contribute to the problem.

The possibility of a freight boat once a weekday should seriously be considered for Summer 2023. If it left NL at 1pm, it could take all freight and packages, returning with Waste Management garbage trucks. It would only require one captain and one deckhand.

Staffing is a nationwide problem given the current labor market, but; recruitment and better pay might be a way to attract and retain more good people.

Commissioner Burnham said our present system plays to standbys, not reservations. Commissioner Cashel called for protocols that the crews could follow to increase timeliness. Haney stated that our crews are underpaid and we have to compete with EB which offers better overtime pay.

Example of Josh Henry was discussed. He is good, young and captain potential. But, we might lose him to Electric Boat. Haney explained our engineers are multitalented but getting older and are very difficult to replace. We have made some good hires recently and overall the team is better than it has been in the past.

Commissioner Shillo advocated for a freight boat, stating that the 8:15am off Island on Tuesday/Wednesday is a mess. Takeaways: 1. Freight boat 2. Load based on reservations 3. Add more boats. Shillo asked for more sense of urgency on part of travelers and crew. A discussion of engine RPMs and speed of boats followed.

PROPERTY TAX REVENUE—The Board decided to leave the Property Tax flat for the year with no 2% increase. This is a way to give back to the taxpayers. Carol Murphy went over financials. Possible improvements to road by transfer station, housing upgrades and NL dolphin repairs for future capital expenditures. Carol said revenues should be up 2022 vs 2021. Airport landing fees are down and Carol is not sure why. Commissioner Cashel asked for a detailed capex plan going out five years.

PILING REPLACEMENT NL TERMINAL- Board says yes to floating a \$1 million dollar bond to cover total costs of piling repairs. We would be able to use less if able to and also to pay down with grant proceeds when we are rewarded.

Theater- A round of thanks was shared for the efforts of Tom Cashel and Dave Congdon on the FI Theater project. A lot of work went into this endeavor. Geb opened the bid for the window replacement project in the Race Point and it came in at \$31K, including all cabin windows and three bulkhead doors.

ADJOURNMENT 6:06pm Proposed by Commissioner Burnham and Seconded by Commissioner Ahrens

