

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Commissioners

Annual Budget Meeting

Fishers Island Ferry District

August 19, 2022

Chair Shillo called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District. Commissioner Ace Ahrens, Jim Reid and Diana Shillo were present. Commissioner Cashel arrived shortly thereafter. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Carol Murphy, and David McCall.

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

Public Comment/Correspondence: Petition was read from Whistler Avenue Residents to FIFD and Waste Management concerning the movement of a front end loader down Whistler between the two WM facilities. The discussion was tabled until the FI Conservancy can be consulted.

Agreed to proceed to Resolutions:

**Warrant**

**RESOLUTION 2022 - 131**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated August 19, 2022, in the amount of \$172,931.49

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

**BUDGET MOD**

**RESOLUTION  
2022-132**

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.1910.4.000.200

Airport: Insurance  
expense

\$136-

**Decrease Appropriations**

SM.5610.4.000.000

Airport: Contracted  
expenses

\$136-

MOVED by Commissioner Ahrens

SECONDED by Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Ahrens, Reid and Shillo

Nays:

## **Minutes**

### **RESOLUTION 2022-133**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the following minutes: August 8, 2022

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

### **HR – New Hire**

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-134**

It is resolved to rescind Resolution 2022-127

#### ***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, 2022, 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*

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

**HR -New Hire**

**RESOLUTION 2022-135**

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect August 25th, 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 25, 2022 Mr. Benjamin from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 14, 2022, 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 Shillo  
Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, J. Reid and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

**HR PROMOTION**

**RESOLUTION 2022-136**

It is resolved to rescind Resolution 2022-129:

**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*

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

## **HR PROMOTION**

### **RESOLUTION 2022-137**

It is RESOLVED that Karina Curbelo be appointed Full-time Account Clerk Typist (FIFD) with effect August, 25, 2022, and be released from her current Part Time Cashier (FIFD) at the end of business August 24, 2022 with a new salary of \$21.00 per hour.

Move by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

## **HR**

### **RESOLUTION 2022– 138**

WHEREAS Deanna Ross is an independent contractor in her duties as Board Secretary for the past 4.5 years, and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners has recommended that she her wages be increased to \$25.00.

Therefore, it is RESOLVED that Ms. Ross hourly wages be increased from \$21.50 per hour to \$25.00 per hour with effect July 1, 2022.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

D. Shillo recuses

Nays: None

## **Legal/City Pier**

### **RESOLUTION 2022 – 139**

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 July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

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 Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

4:39 PM Meeting resumes with a discussion of the ICB Election. Voting in this plebiscite closes tonight 8/19.

4:50 PM Commissioner Cashel arrives and reads the Whistler Avenue petition.

5:00pm Motion put forward to open Public Meeting:

Proposer: Commissioner Ahrens

Secunder: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Ahrens, Cashel, Shillo and Reid

No members of the general public were present.

5:00PM Geb Cook kicks off the annual Budget Hearing with Carol Murphy in attendance. The presentation of the draft budget proposal is accompanied by a Power Point slide show. Geb Cook mentions overview of Theater, Airport and 200 acres of land owned by TOS. Geb mentions current employees and Ferry traffic count. Compares current year to 2019, 2020 and 2021. Highlights: Silver Eel channel dredge paid for by Suffolk, COVID challenges, ticketing system upgrade, Berm/new park begun and RP engine replacement finished, discussions of replacing Munnatawsett have begun. Geb continues with a Property update, theater roof, airport seawalls, hanger and new building, Silver Eel engines and mentions the re election of Di Shillo to another five year term.

Capital Expenditure Projects going forward:

Airport runways, Five year \$1.4 million FAA grant to replace runway 12/30

Transfer Station road repair

357 Whistler windows

Forklift for Fishers Island side

New outboards Silver Eel

Geb mentioned reaching out to Bond Counsel concerning NL dolphins, South Ramp and new boat financing.

Commissioner Cashel says we should have a floating fund of \$50-100K for renovations at 357 Whistler.

Carol Murphy addresses 2021-22 comparison Budget slide. Commissioner Cashel questions how airport expenses are paid out. Carol explains when the FAA revenue comes in, we pay out; so that revenue and expense always balance out in the end. Furthermore, she added, Federal and State reimbursements are very slow.

Carol Murphy then addresses proposed Budget in detail starting with the revenue portion going line to line breaking it down. She states that the numbers are conservative. She then addresses expenses line by line. Commissioner Cashel points out that we have a healthy balance sheet and speaks to taxes. Carol mentions that Commissioners have already decided to forgo the 2% tax increase for this year.

Commissioner Cashel brings up insurance expense: general and marine. Geb comments that our current rates industry competitive. We tried last year to offer coverages out and no one could improve upon our current rates.

Commissioner Cashel questions share of property tax to commercial revenue. What share should tax be of total revenue? Commissioner Cashel states that the District should develop a plan and present it to the public. Discussion ensues amongst Commissioners regarding taxes as a share of total revenue.

Geb and Carol speak on Fund Balance and that it should be in the range 10-15% of total revenue. of it Also, we tapped Fund Balance in March 2022 to offset increased fuel charges and Munnatawsett yard work. Commissioner Shillo says Fund Balance supports us in case times get tough.

5:41PM Adjourned and agree to meet August 30, 2022

Proposer: Commissioner Ahrens

Secunder: Reid

Ayes: Ahrens, Cashel, Reid and Shillo

