

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
June 26, 2017

Commissioner Ahrens at the Fishers Island Community Center called to order a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) on June 26, 2017 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners William Bloethe, Heather Burnham, Peter Rugg and Di Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Gordon Murphy, Geb Cook, RJ Burns, Diane Hansen and Deanna Ross. One member of the public was present.

Commissioner Ahrens established that a quorum was present. Everyone in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

Correspondence/Public Comment – No correspondence was received. A member of the public questioned the BOC as to why a customer can’t make a reservation on line without buying a ticket. This particularly affects those that have purchased a book of tickets in advance. Management has agreed to look into this.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2017- 108

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rung

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Warrants

RESOLUTION 2017- 109

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated June 26th in the amount of \$30,464.64.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017- 110

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves an additional Warrant dated June 26th in the amount of \$5,600.00.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Enabling Act Update - Commissioner Rugg updated the BOC. The Legislative session in Albany New York ended June 21 without the Enabling Act amendment being voted on by the Assembly. The amendments have been stuck in the committee of Local Affairs since May 11, 2017. Looking forward, the FIFD will attempt to get a letter from the Comptroller's Office that they approve the Corrective Action Plan regarding the audit, meet with Mr. Palumbo and answer any questions and attempt to have it restarted in the special session after Labor Day.

May Finance Update - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. A finance committee meeting was held on June 21, 2017 to review January 1 thru May 31 Finances. Revenues at 1.8 million versus a budget of 2.03 Million. Year over year, revenue was \$902,000 versus \$830,000. Net income is \$281,000 versus a budget of \$442,000. Year over year, net income is \$281,000 versus \$77,000 in 2016. Two-way ticketing was discussed during the finance committee meeting to aid in revenue generation. The BOC has agreed to plan for a two way ticketing system by October 1, 2017. Discussion ensued among board members and management regarding various plans of implementation. The District will continue to work toward the October 1, 2017 start date.

Parking - Management and the BOC discussed ways in which to better manage parking at the Fishers Island Ferry terminal. The concept of short term and long term parking was introduced and the BOC will revisit this issue.

Traffic - Mr. Murphy updated the BOC. Year over year, passenger, auto and commercial traffic is up for the first quarter.

SEC Dolphin Project - Mr. Burns informed the BOC that plans are moving forward with Mohawk as the contractor and he is hopeful to start the project in July. Mr. Burns met with the USCG last week to review blueprints and the permits were modified to reflect the increase in the scope of work to be completed. Once work commences, the estimated time for completion is less than ten days.

MU/RP Update - Mr. Burns gave a detailed presentation of the water pump failure that occurred on the MV Race Point June 21. The inside of the gear of the water pump sheared off and some of the pieces went down into the gear train of the engine causing failure. The engine overheat alarm went off and the crew radioed to the wheelhouse. The engine was shut off immediately without any interruption in transportation or threat to passengers and safely returned to the New London dock on the second working engine. Repairs by Rhode Island Engine are in process and MV Race Point should be back in operation this week. Regarding the Munnatawket, Mr. Burns highly recommended to the BOC that the District replace the engines during the fall yard period. Mr. Rugg stated that the Ferry District has the bonding capacity at this time. and the Board directed management to move forward and begin advertising for the engines.

Passenger Ferry - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that the Hovercraft traffic is significantly up over the last two weeks.

Fuel Surcharge - Mr. Murphy expressed that it would be prudent to introduce a fuel surcharge in the event that crude oil prices increase. Mr. Rugg and management will discuss this topic further at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Rhode Island Engine

RESOLUTION 2017- 111

WHEREAS, one of the two engines in the M/V Race Point malfunctioned; and

WHEREAS this occurred during the District's peak season; and

WHEREAS, District Management determined that the immediate replacement of the starboard engine water pump and gear train was essential to maintain the safe and uninterrupted operation of the M/V Race Point and that the required repair constituted an emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2017, Management was able to obtain the services of Rhode Island Engine Company, Inc.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District ratifies and approves Management's determination that the required repair of the M/V Race Point was an emergency; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners waives the requirements of the procurement policy for competitive bidding to obtain the services of Rhode Island Engine Company, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Management is authorized and directed to pay the invoices of Rhode Island Engine Company, Inc., the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Commendation - The BOC would like to commend Captain John Morgan for playing the bagpipes at Mr. Wayne Doucette's memorial service and the entire crew for accommodating all those who attended the service on Sunday, June 18, 2017.

HR

RESOLUTION 2017 – 112

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional full-time Cashiers (FIFD) during the peak season between May 15, 2017, and September 17, 2017;

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect July 6, 2017, Ahkaisha Reyes as a Cashier (FIFD) with full-time summer seasonal status at a rate of \$11.10 per hour. On September 17, 2017, Ms. Reyes will terminate from the summer seasonal Cashier (FIFD) position and on September 18, 2017 be appointed as part-time Cashier (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 – 113

At the recommendation of Mr. RJ Burns, Manager of Marine Operations, and with effect June 16, 2017, Christopher Newell has been promoted to full time Captain (FIFD) at the rate of \$23.00 per hour when performing the duties of Captain. Simultaneously Mr. Newell is released from his full time Deckhand (FIFD) position. Mr. Newell is additionally appointed as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at the rate of \$18.18 per hour when performing the duties of Deckhand (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 – 114

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Clerks;

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint with effect July 6, 2017 John Sargent as a Clerk with full-time summer seasonal status at a rate of \$11.10 per hour. On September 17, 2017, Mr. Sargent will terminate from the summer seasonal Clerk position and on September 18, 2017 be appointed as part-time Clerk.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 – 115

WHEREAS Hannah Peabody has resigned from his position as Cashier (FIFD) with the Fishers Island Ferry District effective June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS Hannah Peabody is not owed any additional compensation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts the resignation of Ms. Peabody with effect June 30, 2017.

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg
Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo
Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 – 116

WHEREAS Jason Orga has resigned from his position as Cashier (FIFD) with the Fishers Island Ferry District effective June 23, 2017 without working a shift; and

WHEREAS Jason Orga is not owed any additional compensation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts the resignation of Mr. Orga with effect June 23, 2017.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe
Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo
Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 – 117

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect July 6, 2017, Ryan Miner as a Deckhand (FIFD) with full-time summer seasonal status at a rate of \$11.10 per hour. On September 17, 2017, Mr. Miner will terminate from the summer seasonal position and on September 18, 2017 be appointed part-time Deckhand (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg
Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo
Nays: None

Executive Session

At 18:10, 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 P. Rugg
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo
Nays: None

At 18:34, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED that the Commission exit from Executive Session and resume Public Session.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, July10, 2017 at 4:30pm with a 3:30 working session at the Island Community Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner D. Shillo, seconded by Commissioner P. Rugg, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.