

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
January 31, 2019

Commissioner Ahrens at the Fishers Island Community Center called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on January 31, 2019 at 1:00 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, William Bloethe and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook and Deanna Ross. Gordon Murphy, John Haney and Diane Hansen were present via telephone. Commissioner Peter Rugg was absent.

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

Correspondence/Public Comment – Mr. Cook reported he received correspondence from Tracy Thibodeau from BD Remodeling stating that she found ten old tickets and asking if the FIFD would be willing to exchange them. The BOC has agreed to exchange the tickets. Mr. Cook also reported that he received correspondence from Mr. Chris Finan regarding the utility demand surcharge. This correspondence was forwarded to all BOC members and Mr. Cook will respond with any questions from the BOC. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Shillo has suggested that management hire an independent electrician to examine the wiring and panel at the Theater to ensure there is nothing faulty that would trigger such a demand surge. Up to this point, only FI Utility resources have been utilized. The BOC is in agreement and Mr. Murphy has agreed to follow up. Mr. Cook verified that the demand surcharge will terminate in 12 months.

Chairman Ahrens informed the BOC that Eddie Bridgman passed away at 10:30 this morning. The BOC sends their condolences to Eddie’s brother and family and expresses gratitude for his many years of service to the FIFD.

Chairman Ahrens and the BOC look forward to Mr. Gordon Murphy’s imminent return to work.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2019 - 016

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting;

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2019 - 017

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting;

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2019- 018

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated January 31,2019 in the amount of \$30,905.97

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

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

Nays: None

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2019 – 019

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends the **2018** Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Decrease Appropriations

SM .9060.8.000.000	MEDICAL INSURANCE	\$1,000
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\$1,000

Increase Appropriations

SM .1930.4.000.000	INSURANCE CLAIM	\$1,000
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\$1,000

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

Management Reports

Marine Update - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. Mr. Haney will be visiting the yard tomorrow to check in on the M/V Munnatawket engine replacement. He reported that work is in progress regarding the dash for the new controls and gauges. Mr. Burns and the engineers will be meeting with Cummins and Twin Disc at the yard next Monday. Mr. Haney reported that Race Point has been running fine with no problems despite a few instances where water was turned off to prevent water pipes from freezing.

Professional Services/MJBA

RESOLUTION 2019 - 020

WHEREAS, M.J. Bradley and Associates, LLC (MJB&A) is a transportation engineering firm providing technical and strategic advisory services to government agencies and environmental groups throughout New York and New England; and

WHEREAS, MJB&A specializes in drafting grant applications for repowering and retrofitting marine vessels; and

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has requested quotes from MJB&A for professional services and assistance in the preparation of applications for available federal grants for the repowering of the M/V Race Point; and

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has determined that that MJB&A's experience and expertise has resulted in an award of similar grants to many of its clients;

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District has determined that the familiarity and technical expertise in the submission of these grant applications will enhance the likelihood of an award to the District; and

WHEREAS, MJB&A has presented a proposal to the BOC for the provision of professional grant writing services dated January 28, 2019, for a fee of \$8,000;

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has determined that it would not be in the best interests of the taxpayers of the FIFD to seek alternative proposals or quotations from other engineering firms who do not possess MJBA's technical expertise in this field.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED that the BOC waives the requirement of a second quote in Guideline 8 of the FIFD Procurement Policy; and be it further RESOLVED that the BOC of the FIFD hereby accept the proposal of MJB&A for professional grant writing services dated January 29, 2018, subject to the approval of District Counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

Munnatawket Bottom Painting

RESOLUTION 2019 - 021

WHEREAS, The BOC of the FIFD, by way of RESOLUTION 2018 - 230 dated December 10, 2018 accepted the proposal from J. Goodison, Co., Inc. in the amount of \$202,000 for the repowering of the M/V Munnatawket with a contingency amount for additional repairs in the amount of \$32,300; and

WHEREAS, The repowering of the M/V Munnatawket is currently underway and nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, Due to the extensive unforeseen repairs to the bottom of the vessel, various areas require repainting at an estimated cost of \$15,000; and

WHEREAS, The entire vessel bottom is scheduled for repainting later this year at the estimated cost of \$34,000; and

WHEREAS, The BOC of the FIFD has determined that it would be more efficient and cost effective to complete the repainting of the entire vessel bottom at this time to save the cost of patch painting; and

WHEREAS, The painting of the vessel bottom will exceed the approved contingency amount by \$34,000; and

WHEREAS, J. Goodison Co., Inc. has presented a change order request to the BOC of the FIFD for the additional work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BOC of the FIFD approves the change order and amends the approved contingency amount from \$30,300 to \$64,300 with the total contract price not to exceed \$266,300.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

Professional Services

RESOLUTION 2019 – 022

WHEREAS Deanna Ross is an independent contractor in her duties as Board Secretary for the past 2.5 years, and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners has recommended that her fee be increased to \$21.50.

Therefore it is RESOLVED that Ms. Ross' hourly fees be increased from \$20.00 per hour to \$21.50 per hour with effect January 1, 2019.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Award Actuarial Professional Services

RESOLUTION 2019 – 023

WHEREAS, the District is required to prepare, for the District's external audit, a GASB 75 analysis of benefits provided to retirees by the District; and

WHEREAS, three quotes were solicited and management has received three quotes; and

WHEREAS, management recommends the acceptance of the quote from Independent Actuary John D. Stiefel, FSA, MAAA, FCCA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts the quote from John D. Stiefel to perform the GASB 75 valuation of Other Post-Employment Benefits as required by statute and the external audit. The fee for a full valuation for the 2018 year and a rollover valuation for the 2019 year is \$4,000.

It is further RESOLVED that the Commissioners authorize management to execute all contracts and ancillary documents, subject to review by counsel.

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

Passenger Ferry - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Mr. Cook received the survey late this afternoon and will be forwarding to all BOC members. Mr. Cook spoke with the surveyor yesterday and briefly summarized his conclusions of the boat. Minor concerns that were identified included some cracked welds near the windows of the pilot house, some leaking windows and a broken hinge on the bow. In addition, the surveyor felt that the engines were slightly under powered. Regarding financing, Mr. Cook stated that the option would be bonding. Mr. Cook is looking into a lease to own option for the first four months and was informed by the Connecticut DOT that Ferry Boat Funds could be used for this purpose. Chairman Ahrens asked for the sentiment of the BOC members. Commissioners voiced concerns regarding the size of the boat, staffing of the boat, the window in which the boat would be used, as well as the audience to capture in making the purchase profitable. Mr. Cook reminded the BOC that the sale would be contingent on USCG COI. After discussion, the BOC has agreed to continue to play out the process and has asked Mr. Cook to relay to all BOC members any further acquired information pertaining to the passenger ferry so an informed decision can be made at the next BOC meeting on February 18, 2019.

Other - The BOC has appointed Mr. Peter Rugg as acting Chairman for the next BOC meeting on February 18, 2019. Chairman Ahrens will be on vacation.

Mr. Cook wishes the minutes to reflect that the FIFD will be paying Mr. Carlton Wilcox 10 days of vacation pay due to him.

Commissioner Shillo informed the BOC and management of voiced concerns made to her regarding the safety of school students when crossing the road from the corner ramp. The current cross walk is faded and does not originate from the ramp. Management has agreed to investigate further and provide a clearly marked cross walk originating from the corner ramp and look into the possibility of signage to inform motorists.

Executive Session

At 14:07, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

At 14:32, 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 W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, February 18, 2019 at 4:30 pm at the Island Community Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner H. Burnham, seconded by Commissioner D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.