

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
May 28, 2019

Chairman 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 May 13, 2019 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy and Deanna Ross. RJ Burns was present via telephone. Commissioners Peter Rugg and William Bloethe were absent. Members of the public included Mere Doyen.

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

Correspondence/Public Comment – Mr. Cook reported that he received a letter from the TOS requesting the use of the ferry for the Annual Town Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 2019. The BOC has approved this request. Mr. Cook also received a letter from Mrs. Sabina Mego requesting fare abatement for necessary medical travel. The BOC has approved this request. There was no public comment.

Traffic - Mr. Cook and the BOC reviewed the monthly traffic report. Traffic is down 11% from 2018.

Finance - Mr. Cook reported that he attended the Finance Committee meeting where financials were reviewed and there was discussion regarding the fast passenger ferry and scheduling and revenue. The Budget Modification was needed to create a new budget line for the fast ferry.

Enabling Act Update - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that there are no further updates at this time. Currently only the bonding piece of the Enabling Act is in the NY Assembly. Discussion ensued and the BOC and management expressed disappointment that the other pieces will not be addressed until the next year session in 2019. Mr. Cook will follow up with Commissioner Rugg, as well as with Attorney Rich Miller.

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2019 – 089

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby increases the 2019 Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Revenues

SM1760.50	Revenue Fast Ferry	\$195,000
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		\$195,000

Appropriations

SM1910.4.000.100	Ferry Insurance	\$5,400
SM5709.2.000.200	Docks & Terminals	\$11,200
SM5710.2.000.300	Ferry Repairs-Fast Ferry	\$20,400
SM5710.4.000.300	Fuel Oil/Vessels	\$80,000
SM5710.1.000.000	Personal Services (Payroll)	\$65,750
SM9797.7.000.000	Debt, Other Govt-Short Term Loan Interest	\$12,250
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		\$195,000

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens
Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham and Shillo
Nays: None

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2019 - 090

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated May 28, 2019 in the amount of \$84,449.49.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo
Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham and Shillo
Nays: None

Management Reports

Marine Update - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. The Memorial Day weekend went smoothly with no complaints. There was one minor damage claim. On Sunday afternoon, Race Point developed a leak in the cooling water system of one of the engines due to a hose failure. Spare parts were on hand and the leak was fixed by 8pm that evening with no impact on service. Mr. Burns and the crew continue to investigate the cause of the hose failure. Commissioner Burnham reminded management to keep the commissioners aware of such incidents. Mr. Burns reported that the fast passenger ferry received much enthusiasm over the weekend by all those who visited the ferry at the yacht club. Commissioner Burnham reported that she received a lot of positive feedback. Mr. Burns reported that the boat performed well during a small sea squall with 30-35 knot wind speed. Qualifying of captains has been taking place over the last several days. Once the name is selected for the boat, Mr. Burns will move forward with the change of all related documents and the COI. Mr. Cook reported that Mr. Burns is looking into new

mufflers to quiet the loud engines on Munnatawket. The original mufflers and heat blankets met specifications and were used with the new engines, not anticipating it would be loud. Mr. Burns would like to congratulate the crew and staff for an outstanding job over the holiday weekend.

Property - Mr. Murphy reported that Hay Harbor would begin occupying 357 Whistler Avenue on Saturday, June 1, 2019. Cleaning is taking place on Thursday, May 30. The TOS building inspector has signed off on the handrails. The District is waiting for the plumber and the mason to make repairs necessary for occupancy approval. Telephone and Internet will be provided by the District to the tenants. Commissioner Burnham reported that Walsh Park is on track for a start date of June 1, 2019.

Fast Passenger Ferry Update and Schedule - The BOC reviewed the proposed fast passenger ferry schedule. The current schedule is coordinated with the train schedule. More times may be added to the schedule if needed. All fares are one way. Discussion ensued regarding the schedule and rates. Future traffic reports will include data from the new passenger ferry. Mr. Burns reported that the small boat would be more impacted by weather so there would need to be more flexibility in the scheduling. The Website is set to go live May 29 or May 30 at the latest. Mr. John Haney will be the main contact for the fast passenger ferry.

Health Benefits Renewal - Mr. Murphy updated the BOC. The FD reviewed three health plans for comparison and has agreed to keep the same plan as the previous year. The plan rates have increased 8.5%. The HRA will remain unchanged.

Legal / EAP Contract Renewal

RESOLUTION 2019 - 091

WHEREAS the current agreement with Behavioral Health Consultants, LLC (“BHC”) for the Employee Assistance Program expires on May 31, 2019, and management recommends that said agreement with BHC be renewed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby directs and authorizes Mr. Gordon Murphy to execute an annual agreement for \$1,700 and any related ancillary documents, and authorizes management to pay invoices when properly invoiced and approved by management.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens
Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham and Shillo
Nays: None

Contract / Health Insurance

RESOLUTION 2019 - 092

WHEREAS the District desires to put in place new health insurance coverage for its qualified employees commencing July 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS the insurance broker Gowrie Group presented insurance options; and

WHEREAS the Harvard Pilgrim PPO HSA 6500 health insurance plan (the “Plan”) was selected based on coverage and terms; and

WHEREAS the Harvard Pilgrim PPO HSA 6500 health insurance plan is a high deductible plan and a Health Reimbursement Account (“HRA”) can be combined with this health insurance plan, requiring the services of a third-party HRA plan administrator, and Progressive Benefit Solutions, LLC was selected to provide these services; and

WHEREAS the District through the HRA will reimburse employees enrolled in the Plan up to \$5,050 per single employee or up to \$10,100 per enrollee greater than a single employee for Plan year out-of-pocket expenses; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that commencing July 1, 2019 , the District shall make available to its qualified employees the Harvard Pilgrim PPO HSA 6500 health insurance plan; and

be it further RESOLVED that management is authorized to execute all documents relating to the Plan subject to review by counsel; and

be it further RESOLVED that commencing July 1, 2019 the District authorizes management to execute all documents relating to establishment of and oversight over an HRA with Progressive Benefit Solutions, LLC subject to review by counsel; and

be it further RESOLVED that for the year commencing July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 only, the District shall fund the HRA sufficiently to reimburse employees enrolled in the Plan up to \$5,050 per single employee or up to \$10,100 per enrollee greater than a single employee for plan year out-of-pocket expenses; and

be it further RESOLVED that management be authorized and instructed to work with the Gowrie Group to review any other related documents as the case may be and in general to finalize and put in place these two related health care coverage programs commencing July 1, 2019 subject to review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo
Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham and Shillo
Nays: None

Special Request for Town of Southold Transportation

RESOLUTION 2018 - 093

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the special use of the ferry to transport Town of Southold and other officials from Orient Point to Fishers Island and back on August 7, 2019 at no charge, and directs management to post any changes to the schedule online and at the terminals.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo
Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham, and Shillo

Nays: None

Blank Rome Retainer - The BOC has agreed to table this resolution until discussion could take place with Commissioner Rugg.

IT Update - Mr. Murphy updated the BOC. Currently the FD has two physical servers and one server in the cloud that handles QuickBooks and the website. The newest server is getting close to the end of its life and an upgrade will be necessary in the near future. Mr. Murphy has been in contact with Star out of Niantic, as well as another provider in Groton who are putting together a proposal to take over the desktop and network support from Advantech. Management is looking into two options. One is through Comcast and the other to physically replace the server at an estimated cost of \$5,000. Comcast is unsure they can get across the railroad tracks. Two internet suppliers are ideal in the event that Frontier goes down and a backup would be available. Mr. Murphy will reach out to the New London Day with the possibility of running a beam from their building to the ferry building. Management continues to look for alternatives.

Off-season Reduced Bicycle Rate - Mr. Murphy proposed consideration of a reduced bicycle rate from October 1st through April 30th. Discussion ensued. The BOC is in favor of the possibility of putting out a survey to the community that would generate opinions on this subject as well as others related to the FD.

Naming of the Fast Passenger Ferry - Chairman Ahrens reported that Silver Eel was on all five ballots from the committee of island residents. The term "express" was dropped from the actual name of the boat due to feedback from the captains with regard to ease of saying the name over the radio. The BOC has agreed to name the boat "Silver Eel". "Silver Eel Express" will still be used with regard to the route.

Theater Update - Mr. Murphy updated the BOC. Discussion ensued. After multiple proposals, the Friends of Fishers Island Theater, Inc. have agreed to an annual fee of \$1,000 and paying of utilities from June 1st through October 31st.

Legal – Theater management

RESOLUTION 2019 - 094

Whereas the Friends of Fishers Island Theater, Inc. wishes to operate the community theater in 2019.

Therefore it is RESOLVED to authorize management to negotiate and enter into a contract with the Friends of Fishers Island Theater, Inc. to operate the community theater for \$1,000.00 from June 1, 2019 – October 31, 2019 subject to review by counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham and Shillo

Nays: None

Other - Mr. Cook reported that Mr. Toldo is interested in moving his rental space. Several spaces are being considered; however, a decision will not be ready until the fall.

Executive Session

At 18:16, 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 D. Shillo

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

Nays: None

At 18:35, 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 H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, June 10, 2019 at 4:30 pm at the Island Community Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner A. Ahrens, seconded by Commissioner H. Burnham, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.