

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
September 28, 2020

Chairman Ahrens called a teleconference meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on September 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, Jon Haney and Deanna Ross. Finance Committee member Tom Cashel was present. Commissioner Jim Reid joined the call at 5:06 pm. Commissioner Bloethe joined the call at 5:38pm. There were no members of the public present.

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

**Correspondence/Public Comment** - Mr. Cook reported that he asked the Town of Southold when they were planning on starting the highway barn project. Mr. Cook received correspondence from Mr. Michael Collins that the highway barn project will be completed after the sidewalk project. There was no public comment.

**Introduction of Linda Flynn** - Mr. Murphy reported that Ms. Linda Flynn joined the team today as the new Accounting Supervisor. Ms. Flynn was unable to join today’s BOC meeting but will be at the next BOC meeting on October 13, 2020. Ms. Diane Hansen will be hired as a consultant to work with Ms. Flynn in providing a smooth transition.

**Minutes**

RESOLUTION 2020 – 143

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby proves the minutes of the August 3, August 17 and August 21 Board of Commissioner meetings.

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

**Warrant** - Mr. Murphy reported that this current warrant included a Bond Anticipation Note.

RESOLUTION 2020 – 144

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated September 28<sup>th</sup> 2020, in the amount of \$1,494,742.28.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo  
Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

Ayes: A. Ahrens, H. Burnham, J. Reid and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

## **Marine**

**Silver Eel Update** - Mr. Cook and Mr. Haney updated the BOC. After Silver Eel suffered catastrophic failure of its port engine last week, Management presented the Finance Committee with several options including selling the boat, replacing both engines, replacing one engine or doing nothing. The Finance Committee has suggested that the BOC replace one engine and continuing to serve the Fishers Island School. Mr. Haney reported that the time frame for repair is most likely 4 weeks. Mr. Cook reported that Mr. Arsenault wants to continue using Silver Eel as long as possible. Race Point is planning on getting pulled on October 15, 2020 but management will get a firmer date from Thames Shipyard. Mr. Cook reported that they do not have an answer to the engine failure. Mr. Haney reported that there was a note from the surveyor who reported that the previous owner had problems with a heating issue on that engine that failed. Mr. Haney reported that this was not an issue during sea trials. Mr. Haney also reported that the crew did notice some ticking coming from the power head of that engine a week prior to failure. Yamaha was notified and per Yamaha's suggestion, routine maintenance was carried out. Mr. Murphy reported that management will be talking to the Town Comptroller to see if any of the surplus monies that were bonded could be used for engine replacement of Silver Eel.

## **Legal**

### **RESOLUTION 2020 - 145**

Whereas, the Fishers Island Ferry District provides daily transportation to school children and teachers only, on the Fast Ferry Silver Eel due to the Covid-19 Pandemic; and

Whereas, on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> the MV Silver Eel suffered catastrophic failure of its port engine; and

Whereas there are no matching replacement outboard engines available; and

Therefore, it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District waives its procurement policy for the emergency replacement and installation of a new outboard engine power-head for \$14,000 plus one lower unit for \$4,500 from Boats Inc, Niantic, CT.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

**Dredge Update** - Mr. Cook reported that it looks like the Town Trustees will approve; however, the County does not have money at this time so the project will not happen this fall.

**RP/MU** - Mr. Haney reported that there was a starter issue on the Munnatawket on Saturday that has since been taken care of. This is the second occurrence in the last three days. This may be related to a relay which is a Cummins part. Communication is taking place with Cummins regarding warranty of the starter. Start up and Shut down procedures will be reviewed with all the Captains.

**Other** - Mr. Cook reported that BD Remodeling has given the Ferry District a quote of \$1,000 for the permit work of the bathrooms in the freight shed. The permitting process can take place once Walsh Park receives the Certificate of Occupancy for the new apartments. Mr. Cook reported that BD Remodeling has expressed some interest in the rental space that will be available on the first level of the freight shed. Commissioner Burnham reported that there was some discussion of the possibility of flipping the current tenant storage space with the ferry rental space. Commissioner Burnham will apprise the BOC with any updates she receives.

**Highway Barn** - Mr. Murphy reported that it seems the TOS will be moving forward with the Highway Barn after the Sidewalk project is complete per a response from Mr. Collins to Mr. Cook. Mr. Murphy has agreed to draft some correspondence to the TOS to address specific requests regarding property management including road and shrub maintenance.

### **LH Settlement**

RESOLUTION 2020 - 146

WHEREAS, the District was presented with a claim by Lauren Himebaugh for the sum of \$1,049.32.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District has determined that it is in the best interests of the District to resolve this claim to avoid the expense and uncertainties of litigation; be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District approves the settlement of this claim and directs management to make payment of the settlement amount of \$1,049.32 subject to the approval of District counsel and the Southold Town Attorney.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

Nays: None

**Resident Discount Program** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Mr. Murphy has received 8-9 applicants at this time. Currently, the program is on hold until October 1, 2020. The BOC has agreed to review each on a case by case basis after October 1, 2020. Mr. Murphy has agreed to draft probationary language for the first year of all new applicants and bring to the next BOC meeting.

**US Mail** - Mr. Murphy updated the BOC. Due to the ferry schedule change on Saturdays, mail will not leave the island until the 4:45 boat when there is no noon boat due to fuel charters.

**Other** - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that The Town Planning Board informed Mr. Brad Burnham that the retention pond is outside the leased area of the proposed Airport Hanger. The BOC may need to expand the lease.

### **HR/KAN**

RESOLUTION 2020 - 147

The Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the resignation of Kathleen Alfred-Nieman with effect the end of business October 16, 2020. Ms. Nieman does not have any accruals. In addition the Board wishes to thank Ms. Nieman for here time at teh District.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

## **HR/DKH**

RESOLUTION 2020 – 148

It is RESOLVED to amend resolution 2020-135 from September 8 to September 29, 2020.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

## **Executive Session**

At 17:57, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

At 18:10, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, That the Commission exit from Executive Session and resume Public Session.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

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

Nays: None

**Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 5:00 PM via Tele/Videoconference.**

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner W. Bloethe, seconded by Commissioner A. Ahrens, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.