

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
November 16, 2023

Chair Ahrens called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on November 16, 2023 at 4:00 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Ace Ahrens, Heather Burnham, Tom Cashel and Jim Reid were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Dave McCall and John Haney. Members of the public included employee Kris Dorsett and Staley Sednaoui. Captains Jesse Marshall and John Morgan arrived at 4:30 pm.

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

**Correspondence/Public Comment** - Mr. McCall reported he received a bunker presentation from Nathaniel Chaves and Zachary Lewis that was included in the BOC Board pack. The BOC will review and discuss at a later time. Commissioner Ahrens will talk to the Fire Department, as they use that bunker for drills. Correspondence was received from the Ski Club requesting that 4 more late boats be added on Sunday nights in January and February to accommodate their return to the island. The BOC has agreed to add 2 late boats in January and 2 late boats in February. Lastly, correspondence was received from Jim Eagan, representing the school, asking for some consideration of a discount on freight for the renovation project. Mr. Cook has asked Mr. Eagan to make a presentation to the BOC at the next meeting.

Employee Kris Dorsett reported that the BOC should have received the letter from the CSEA addressing the issue with the wage ladder. Kris would like to discuss the matter further with the BOC at a future work session. The BOC has agreed to come up with a couple of dates to address this issue. Kris thanked the BOC and looks forward to meeting with them. The BOC has agreed to open up another public comment for Captains's Jesse Marshall and John Morgan when they arrive.

### **Executive Session**

At 16:08 it was RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and property matters.

Moved by: Commissioner T. Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner J. Reid

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

Nays: None

At 16:29 it was RESOLVED that the Commission exit from Executive Session and resume Public Session.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

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**Public Comment 2** - Captain Jesse Marshall commented that he believes the Ferry District has done a very good job with infrastructure and have invested time and money into preserving the aging infrastructure. Jesse M believes that the employees of the Ferry District are the human infrastructure that will require investment in going forward. Jesse M reported that the crew is happy with their jobs, the Board, management and the clientele they serve. They are particularly happy with Jon Haney and thank him for all he does. Jesse M closed by saying that addressing the wage ladder is very important and looks forward to a resolution while it is a problem and not a crisis. Captain John Morgan echoed Jesse's comments. John commented that he appreciates all that goes into making employment at the Ferry District stable. There has been a reduced capacity in full time and part time support and now there is an opportunity to capitalize on the best employees out there by raising the bottom just a bit. Kris Dorsett asked if we could get back to having a few BOC meetings in New London. The BOC has agreed to get that back on the schedule. Kris wanted to clarify some miscommunications and misinterpretations that he is hearing about. Kris reported that some employees are being told that their Cost of Living Allowance raises are somehow connected to their Merit Pay increases. COLA raises are 2.5% and have nothing to do with Merit Pay increases which can be as high as 5%. In addition, the ranges on the wage ladder are starting wage rates only and is not a cap on wages. If a range is between \$18 - \$22 an hour, that doesn't mean an employee has to stay under \$22. The crew thanks the BOC and looks forward to meeting with them.

Commissioners H. Burnham and J. Reid left the meeting at 4:40 pm.

## **Minutes**

### **Resolution 2023-166**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the following minutes: October 2, 2023 and October 16, 2023.

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

## **Warrant**

### **RESOLUTION 2023 –167**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated November 16, 2023, in the amount of \$431,319.73

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

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**Budget Modification 2023**

**Resolution 2023-168**

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishes Island Ferry District hereby amends the 2023 Fishers Island Ferry District capital budget as follows:

**Increase Revenues:**

H7.5710.00	Serial Bonds Proceeds	<u>\$2,500,000</u>
	Total	\$2,500,000

**Increase Appropriations:**

H7.5720.2.400.100	South Ramp Project	\$1,300,000
H7.5720.2.400.200	Dolphin Pilings Project	<u>\$1,200,000</u>
	Total	\$2,500,000

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

**RESOLUTION 2023-169**

**11.15.2023**

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District Hereby amends the **2023** Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

**Increase Appropriations:**

SM5709.2.000.200	Repairs: Docks & Terminals	\$ 400,000.00
SM5710.2.000.300	Repairs: Silver Eel	\$ 10,000.00
SM5710.4.000.950	Training	\$ 5,000.00
SM5710.4.000.400	Printing	\$ 300.00
		<u>\$</u>

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**Total** **\$ 415,300.00**

**Decrease Appropriations:**

SM5610.2.000.000	Airport Cap Ex	\$ 415,300.00
		\$
		\$ _____
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 415,300.00</b>

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

**Munnatawket Yard Package**

Resolution 2023 - 170

WHEREAS the MV Munnatawket must be hauled out for biennial US Coast Guard inspection and certain required maintenance; and

WHEREAS proper public notice of the RFP was placed in The Day newspaper noting the specifics and contact details; and,

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2023, sealed bids were received and opened by the District Manager in the presence of one member of the District Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Operations Manager reviewed the bid received, assessed the value to the District, deemed it a bid favorable to the District, advised the Board of Commissioners of the terms of the bid and his recommendation to accept the bid from, J. Goodison Co. Shipyard and Marine Services, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District approves the bid from Goodison Shipyard in the amount of **\$246,900.00** with supplemental work items and contingency charges on a time and materials basis not to exceed **\$110,000.00**; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Management is directed to execute the contract and any ancillary documents subject to review by District counsel and to pay all amounts when properly invoiced and approved by Management.

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

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**Marine Radios**

Resolution 2023- 171

WHEREAS, the Ferry District's won a Port Security Grant for the purpose of replacing its existing hand-held Marine Radios and Base stations;

WHEREAS, management has solicited proposals from three vendors and received one proposal, and has determined that Dockside Electronics is the best value; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby accepts the proposal of Dockside Electronics for **\$16,402.68** to provide radios and install base stations subject to the approval of District Counsel.

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

**Executive Session** - No executive session needed at this time.

**Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 30, 2023, at 4:00 PM, at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.**

**A working session with the crew is scheduled for Friday, December 1, 2023, at 1:30 pm, at the New London Terminal.**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner D. Shillo, seconded by Commissioner A. Ahrens, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.