

Fishers Island Ferry District
Board of Commissioners

November 14, 2024
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Dianna Shillo called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on November 14, 2024 at 5:05 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Jim Reid, Heather Burnham, and Dianna Shillo were present at the Community Center, as were Dave McCall and Secretary Jessica NeJame. Geb Cook and Jon Haney were present via Zoom. Commissioner Tom Cashel joined belatedly via Zoom. There were no members of the public present.

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

General Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment/Correspondence:
4. Marine Update:
5. Minutes: July 8, 22 and 26; August 12, 16 and 29; Sept 16 and 19
6. Warrant: \$91,164.54
7. Budget Modification \$100,371.00
8. HR Raise
9. HR Promotion
10. HR Promotion
11. Legal Contract Retain Counsel
12. Legal Property Closing
13. Rescind/Replace PVA Dates
14. Executive:
15. Next scheduled meetings – Monday November 25, 2024, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom.
16. Adjournment

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
June 24, 2024

There were no public correspondence or comments.

Commissioner JR asked if there was any business to go over from last meeting. Conversation ensued regarding applications for Fishers Island residency. DM mentioned a few folks who are in the process of applying to become a resident and a few folks who will lose their residency in the new year. Chair DS asked about the process for the new cards in the new year. DM agreed that it would be a good idea to put a notice out in December. DM said that 250 cards will be reprinted with the 2023 photo that will be ready to be picked up. Staff members know how to run the machine, so printing new cards if need be won't be a problem. The cards will be distributed throughout January. Commissioner HB suggested bringing cards and forms to the December senior lunch.

Some conversation ensued about who qualifies for a resident rate. Chair DS suggested implementing a discounted military rate.

JH provided the marine update. He sent the ship repair agreement and notified the local Coast Guard and nearby sectors to let them know that the boat will be coming through. They are aiming for the first week as the worklist may change depending on what they find. No updates on Munnatawket. JH spoke with the buyer of the Silver Eel today and learned that while originally slated to arrive on Friday, November 1, the boat has been delayed in Pennsylvania. Commissioner JR asked who currently owns the Silver Eel. JH clarified that it is fully owned by the buyer – the document is in their name and we got paid. An additional marine update involves crew training. The first phase began yesterday and while there is at least one more to get done, it's moving along, as are employee evaluations. JH and Captain John Morgan attended passenger vessel conference last week. They spoke with other companies about labor issues – specifically, the availability of qualified mariners and licensed positions. Other companies work with maritime academies, three of whom were at the conference. This works better for the other companies because they are required to have licenses that we aren't required to have, aside from captains. Commissioner HB asked why we don't have the same requirements. JH said this is because of our tonnage requirements and machinery arrangement. JH talked with Block Island, Casco Bay, and Port Jeff about how they recruit captains, saying it's going to come down the pipe for us because three of our captains are within ten years of possible retirement. They all advance from within and promote advancement there. It comes down to, if you want to keep 'em, you gotta pay 'em. Casco Bay offers all of their employees an internal captain course. They bring an outside company in and do the training at their facility. Commissioner HB asked who paid for this course and if it was on the employees' own time. In providing more details, JH said that 2-4 people take the course and that it is covered by the company. If you leave the company within three years, you have to reimburse the cost of the course. Commissioner HB suggested further exploring this program. Also at the conference, there was some training about EVs and FIFD is right on par with everyone else. These bigger companies have positions with fire training. Overall, great conference.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2024-139

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the following minutes: July 8, 2024, July 22, 2024, July 26, 2024, August 12, 2024, August 16, 2024, August 29, 2024, September 16, 2024, and September 19, 2024.

Discussion:

Chair DS stated that the minutes for September 16 and September 19 weren't in the packet for review. DM mentioned that the referenced minutes were heavily abbreviated. GC asked what not approving the minutes meant for the warrant and the pay, suggesting that it would be good for the commissioners to be able to review them. DM said that he will get the missing minutes out in the morning. The resolution was passed pending review of the minutes from September 16 and September 19.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Reid, and Shillo

Nays: None

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
June 24, 2024

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2024 –140

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated November 14, 2024 in the amount of \$91,164.54.

Discussion:

Chair DS asked if there were any issues with the warrant. DM said there were no issues and that Glassons was the biggest piece of it.

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

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2024-141

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District Hereby amends the **2024** Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Increase Appropriations:

SM5610.2.000.000	Airport CapEx	\$ 24,000.00
SM5709.2.000.100	Repairs: Rental Buildings	\$ 5,700.00
SM5710.2.000.100	Repairs: Munnatawket	\$ 10,000.00
SM5710.2.000.200	Repairs: Race Point	\$ 3,000.00
SM5710.4.000.900	Bank/CC Fees	\$ 2,000.00
SM5710.1.000.000	Payroll Expense	\$ 7,671.00
SM1910.4.000.100	Insurance Expense	\$ 5,000.00
SM5710.4.000.625	Terminal Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
SM9060.8.000.000	Medical Insurance	\$ 10,000.00
SM5710.4.400.100	Marine Engineering	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>
	Total	\$100,371.00

Decrease Appropriations:

SM5709.2.000.200	Repairs: Docks & Terminals	\$ 5,000.00
SM7155.4.000.000	Repairs: FI Theater	\$ 1,500.00
SM5710.4.000.350	Fuel: Silver Eel	\$ 871.00
SM5710.2.000.300	Repairs: Silver Eel	\$ 2,206.00
SM5710.4.000.500	Computer/IT Support	\$ 5,000.00
SM5710.4.000.000	Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 795.00
SM5710.4.000.400	Printing Expense	\$ 294.00
SM1950.4.000.000	Property Tax	\$ 705.00
SM1930.4.000.000	Insurance Claims	\$ 1,000.00
SM9730.6.000.000	BAN Principal	<u>\$ 83,000.00</u>
	Total	\$100,371.00

Discussion:

DM mentioned that this mostly came from the BAN principal which is the bond repayment.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Burnham, Shillo, and Reid

Nays:

HR

RESOLUTION 2024-142

WHEREAS, Employee 40949 has performed with merit in the duties of a Junior Captain, and

WHEREAS, the manager has recommended that his Junior Captain's wages be increased in acknowledgment of this achievement,

Therefore, it is RESOLVED that Employee 40949 wages be increased from \$25.83 to \$30.00 as a Junior Captain with effect November 28, 2024.

Discussion:

DM explained that this is someone we're trying to keep in the organization and retain as a captain. With the loss of the Silver Eel, employees lost the ability to earn money working on that boat. This promotion will also help bring him up to speed with working on the bigger boats. Conversation ensued about which employee this was.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Shillo, and Reid

Nays:

HR Promotion

RESOLUTION 2024 –143

WHEREAS 47453 has performed with merit in the duties of a part time deckhand, and

WHEREAS the manager has recommended that said deckhand be promoted to fulltime deckhand

Therefore it is RESOLVED that employee 47453 be promoted to fulltime deckhand and the wages be increased from \$17.00 per hour to \$18.30 per hour with effect November 28, 2024.

Discussion:

DM said that this is a part-time employee that we want to make a full-time employee. He's showed good effort and good dedication for six months.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Burnham, Shillo, and Reid

Nays:

HR Promotion

RESOLUTION 2024- 144

WHEREAS the District ratified the Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2026 agreement with CSEA, Inc. Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO; and

WHEREAS said Advancement Ladders define qualifications and minimum wages for certain positions and;

WHEREAS, on Thursday October 31, 2024 employee 41786, a Deckhand (FIFD), met the qualifications to be advanced to Junior Captain (Ferries Munnatawket and Race Point) and as listed in the Ferry District's advancement ladder, and

WHEREAS his manager has recommended such action, it is therefore

RESOLVED with effect November 28, 2024, employee 41786 is promoted to part-time Captain (FIFD) at the rate of \$27.00 per hour when performing the duties of Junior Captain. 41786 will retain his title of full-time Deckhand (FIFD) at the rate of \$20.50 per hour when performing the duties of Deckhand (FIFD).

Discussion:

Commissioner HB clarified that as a split guy, this person will be paid based on the role and DM confirmed. Chair DS asked about the additional language at the beginning of the resolution and DM explained that Southold asked for that language to be included.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Shillo, and Reid

Nays:

Legal

Retain Harris Beach PLLC.

RESOLUTION 2024 – 145

Whereas the Ferry District requires certain general and specific legal expertise including corporate operations and activities.

Now therefore be it RESOLVED that the Commissioners of the Ferry District authorize G. Cook to execute a professional services agreement with the law firm Harris Beach PLLC. to provide the Ferry District with representation in corporate matters.

Discussion:

No discussion on this resolution.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Shillo, and Reid

Nays:

Legal

Property Closing 172 Trumbull Drive

RESOLUTION 2024 – 146

Whereas the Fishers Island Ferry District is to close on the property previously owned by the United States Coast Guard at 172 Trumbull Drive, Fishers Island, New York.

Now therefore, be it resolved, the Fishers Island Ferry Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes George B. Cook as Manager or Martin Finnegan as Lawyer to sign all required documents as prepared by Finnegan Law P.C. to effectuate the closing of Title.

Discussion:

GC explained that this resolution authorizes him or Martin Finnegan to sign the closing documents, which will take place early next week. Chair DS asked what next steps were following the closing. DM said that the insurance brokers will sell them a policy upon the closing and that there will be insurance in place the day that it closes. Conversation ensued about additional tasks, including getting the keys, checking the systems (plumbing, hot water, electric), and getting someone to clean the building. The goal is to have Southold consider the building as a favorable place to house the town police. The group emphasized the importance of moving quickly to ensure that the building is in good condition. Commissioner JR asked if FIFD is responsible for paying closing taxes and other fees. The group consensus was that yes, FIFD would be paying those fees. Chair DS asked if the insurance on this property will be combined with the other policies or a standalone policy. GC indicated that right now it is a standalone policy but that in future, it will likely be combined. Commissioner Burnham indicated that this may not be the case and GC stated that he will ask. GC mentioned the Enabling Act and a possible amendment. The group was unsure if this amendment was passed and if so, the role that it might play. GC mentioned that Harris Beach is reviewing the amendments and they will know if it impacts the sale. Chair DS asked about other things that may be good to review and get in writing, such as who can vote on the island or be on the Board of Commissioners. Chair HB said that it's two different fights, but while Harris Beach is going through this exercise, maybe they could help. Chair DS pointed out that this part of the Enabling Act is troubling and could come back to bite us. For example, to be on the FIFD board, you have to be a registered voter and a property owner when 2/3 of year-rounders don't own property here. Commissioner HB mentioned that there have been conversations in years past about changing the language of who can be on the board. Commissioner TC doesn't think that renters should be saying what taxpayers pay for.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Burnham, Shillo, and Reid

Nays:

Rescind

Passenger Vessel Association Conference

RESOLUTION 2024 - 147

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby grants permission to Marine Operations Manager, Jonathan Haney and Captain John Morgan to attend the Passenger Vessel Association Original Colonies Regional Meeting from November 7-9, 2024 at Portland, ME. All expenses for registration and travel, including meals, not to exceed \$2500.00, will be a legal charge to the 2024 District budget.

Replace

Passenger Vessel Association

RESOLUTION 2024 - 148

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby grants permission to Marine Operations Manager, Jonathan Haney and Captain John Morgan to attend the Passenger Vessel Association Original Colonies Regional Meeting from November 4-6, 2024 at Portland, ME. All expenses for registration and travel, including meals, not to exceed \$2500.00, will be a legal charge to the 2024 District budget.

Discussion:

Chair DS clarified that this is just a rescind with corrected dates.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Shillo, and Reid

Nays:

Commissioner HB asked GC if there were any additional updates that he needed to share. GC said that they met with union again and they are making slow progress. The goal is still to close by the end of the year.

There was no executive business.

Commissioner TC asked if the ferry crew was clear on the chain of command while GC is away. JH said that the crew is aware that he will be gone, with DM adding that he and JH have it handled. GC asked TC to follow up with Harris Beech. Commissioner HB asked if the special schedule for Thanksgiving was all set.

Commissioner JR motioned to adjourn with Commissioner HB seconding. Meeting adjourned at 4:46 pm.