

Fishers Island Ferry District
Board of Commissioners

November 25, 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 25, 2024 at 4:01 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Jim Reid, David Congdon, Heather Burnham, Dianna Shillo, and Tom Cashel were present at the Community Center, as were Dave McCall and Secretary Jessica NeJame. Jon Haney was present via Zoom. Geb Cook absent. 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: Tom Shillo needs a lot
4. Marine Update:
5. Minutes: November 14, 2024
6. Warrant: \$89,246.20
7. Executive:
8. Other: Real Estate rental rates, ticketing system
9. Next scheduled meetings – Monday December 9, 2024, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom.
10. Adjournment

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

Public Comment/ Correspondence:

DM informed the group that Tom Shillo is inquiring about a location where he can store a load of dirt for at least 3 months, but potentially for up to a year. Discussion ensued regarding possible locations. DM suggested South Beach, but that would only work until about May. DM also mentioned Jimmy Ski's lot, which is not currently big enough for the two of them but could be expanded if Jimmy was amenable. The Ferry District helped prepare that land, though Jimmy did most of the work himself to clear it. The idea of clearing more land was discussed, but Commissioner HB pointed out that this may be short-sighted without a long-term plan in place. Commissioner JR asked about the lots near the ferry. DM said that Tom would likely only need about a third of the available space and that the Ferry District could charge 1/3 of the previous rent for the full lot. DM will determine the numbers and a start date (potentially December 1), but management will handle this going forward.

Marine Update:

JH provided the marine update. He said there was not much on the boats themselves, but that full crews will be on for the next few days, as the boat schedule is relatively busy with Thanksgiving travel.

The concept review meeting occurred last week and went well, as did the meeting with the consultants from MCP. Commissioner HB asked if there were materials from that meeting and JH said that he will send over the minutes. These materials will include the design and everything exterior, which will be finalized by the end of December. The interior and systems will be done from January to July. JH noted that MCP is doing a good job of keeping things on track. There has been some dialogue about the length of the beam, which was originally suggested as 40 wide by 165 but has been increased to 42 by 170 to maximize it. Commissioner HB asked about fire suppression in the floor. JH said it hasn't come up yet, but it is in the owner's requirements and will be in discussion in the new year.

JH said there are no new staff members but reminded the Board to send him a text if they have or hear of issues with staff. He mentioned that traffic is up, perhaps driven by commercial numbers.

Commissioner DC asked the reasons as to why the Ferry District didn't opt for a drive-through boat design. JH said the biggest factor is that we'd end up cancelling more trips than we do now for rough weather. Additionally, the freeboard on our boats aren't high enough, and if we increased that, we'd also have to increase our ramps. Boats that do this are about 8' or 9' feet from the waterline to the deck, whereas we are about 3.5'. JH mentioned that the crew is efficient at backing people on, and the time-savings likely wouldn't be that significant. Commissioner HB mentioned that we did explore this concept early on in the process, and JH added that it was part of the study that the first company did.

Minutes**RESOLUTION 2024-149**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the following minutes: November 14, 2024

Discussion:

This resolution will be tabled so folks have more time to review.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2024 –150

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated November 25, 2024 in the amount of \$89,246.20.

Discussion:

DM pointed out the bulk of this is Glosten and health insurance. Commissioner JR asked about the asbestos testing charge. DM explained that this charge was for them to come out and do a post-test after the removal. The test indicated that the remediation was successful and asbestos was not present.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2024 –151

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:

SM5710.2.000.200	Repairs: Race Point	\$ 4,000.00
SM5710.2.000.300	Repairs: Silver Eel	\$ 80.00
SM5710.4.000.900	Bank/CC Fees	\$ 5,000.00
SM5710.4.400.100	Marine Engineering	\$ 55,000.00
	Total	\$ 64,080.00

Decrease Appropriations:

SM5710.2.000.100	Repairs: Munnatawket	\$ 3,000.00
SM5710.4.000.000	Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 1,500.00
SM5710.1.000.000	Payroll: Wages & Salaries	\$ 59,580.00
	Total	\$ 64,080.00

Discussion:

Commissioner JR asked about the internet charges on the warrant. Part of this is for the theater.
Commissioner DC asked why we're paying for utilities at the theater. DM was unsure if that is part of the lease agreement or if that is being reimbursed.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, and Shillo

Nays: None

HR Rescind & Replace

Rescind

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, and as per Article 8 Section 5, 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).

Replace

HR Promotion

RESOLUTION 2024-152

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, and as per Article 8 Section 5, 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 \$22.00 per hour when performing the duties of Deckhand (FIFD).

Discussion:

The pay was typed incorrectly on Resolution 2024-144. It was listed as \$20.50, which has been corrected to \$22.00.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Congdon, Shillo, and Reid

Nays: None

Other:

DM brought up the leases that are expiring at the end of December. The Board needs to discuss the possibility of raising rates and implementing longer leases, as well as when to bring these changes to the 18 renters. Discussion ensued about the timeline for this, with consensus that lease changes should be pushed out at least 6 months. Commissioner TC mentioned that the leases could be staggered so that the paperwork doesn't all come up at the same time. Chair Shillo asked how this would be communicated to renters in December. DM said that he would communicate to them via email and in-person with a rider extending the current leases until June 1, with language that the Ferry District would be considering increasing rent and extending leases at that time. Commissioner DC mentioned that there may already be a month-to-month provision in the lease. DM also mentioned the possibility of a real estate tour of properties that board members haven't seen. Commissioner DC added that this could also be a good opportunity to talk to renters about their needs.

Commissioner HB brought up the topic of Anchor and the batch ticketing system. Some people have been having issues with the batch tickets not scanning correctly. This has been an ongoing problem, as reported by the Fishers Island Fire Department and Race Rock. There have also been issues with the app. Commissioner HB suggested reviewing the contract with Anchor at the next meeting to see what the remaining commitment is, and potentially get them on a call with the Board. Chair Shillo pointed out that a lot of time and money has been spent on choosing Anchor, and that she would like to see us try to make the current system work. Commissioner TC suggested processing group tickets individually. Conversation ensued about having staff print off batches of individual tickets or if it would work to add individual tickets to a shopping cart and purchasing them in one transaction. JH agreed that this is a problem and added that he thinks processing them as individual tickets would help. He expressed concern that credit card companies would flag the multiple transactions.

Commissioner HB motioned to move into executive with Commissioner JR seconding at 4:58 pm.

Commissioner TC motioned to adjourn with Commissioner DC seconding. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.