



Board of Director Regular Meeting Minutes with Executive Session

September 21, 2021 Recorder: Donna Halvorsen

1. **Call Meeting To Order:** Jeff Nickerson called meeting to order at 10:05am.

2. **Roll Call:**

Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	present via teleconference
Vice Chair	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	present via teleconference
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	present via teleconference
Director	Coffman Cove	Brian Wilson	absent
Director	At-Large	DeeDee Jeffreys	present via teleconference
Director	Hydaburg	Sam Mooney	present via teleconference

Staff Present: Ron Curtis, Rich Rogers, Kristine Hansen and Donna Halvorsen

Staff present via teleconference: Walter Marsh and Chrissy Torsey-Lucero

Public Present: None

Public present via teleconference: None

3. **Approval of Agenda** Motion: Approve agenda as amended to change New Business to be #10 and Executive Session to be #9; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Sam Mooney. Motion approved unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a) Motion: Approve minutes from July 12, 2021 Special meeting w/Executive Session; moved by Otis Gibbons and seconded by Harvey McDonald. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) Motion: Approve minutes from August 25, 2021 Special meeting; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by DeeDee Jeffreys. Motion approved unanimously.

5. **Public Comment** none

6. **Correspondence** none

7. **Manager's Report**

To: Inter-Island Ferry Authority Board of Directors

From: Ron Curtis - General Manager

Subject: Q1 Update

1) COVID Update - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that it will be continuing its Face Mask Order for public transportation. We have had several employees that have had to quarantine due to positive tests in the last quarter. We currently have no active cases.

- 2) Funding Status – We have received a 250K legislative grant in the FY22 budget. We have also secured 6M over the next two years FHWA CRRSAA funds. It has taken much effort to figure out how to access these funds. We worked with the Governor’s office and Chrissy was on a call with the Deputy Commissioner on 9-16. Chrissy now feels as though she has a good handle on getting these funds. We have received our delinquent 5311 grants from FY 2021 and we have been granted the maximum 1.1M in 5311 grants for FY22.
- 3) SE Conference – I presented our numbers for the last Fiscal year. In 2021 we Transported 27,908 passengers, 8,091 vehicles and had a farebox recovery rate of 52%. I also present our results from the first 2 months of fiscal year 2022. We are optimistic for the current fiscal year as we have transported 10,398 passengers and 2,047 vehicles at a farebox recovery rate of 112%. Much of SE Conference swirled about the massive amounts of funding that are in the infrastructure bill for the AMHS, Electric Ferries, and ports in general. I was approached by the state about the possibility of building a new port of Hollis in Clark Bay under the IFA’s control....More to come.
- 4) Infrastructure Bill – Most of the dollars in the infrastructure bill have been set aside for ferry operators that have routes longer than 50 miles. I have spoken at length with Lisa Murkowski, SE Conference and Senator Sullivan’s delegation about this issue.
- 5) Service Animals - We have had some issues with so called “Service Animals” in the last year. I have petitioned the Federal Government to change the Service Animal rules on Ferries to mirror what the DOT requires on Airlines. I explained that this is not farfetched as we, like the airlines have little recourse if a so-called service animal gets out of line. We are not like a bus that can pull over and ask them to get off. I have included the current DOT for required for air travel.
<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2020-12/Service%20Animal%20Health%20Behavior%20Training%20Form.pdf>
- 6) Electric Ferries – There is \$250M in the infrastructure bill for electric/low emitting Ferries. The legislation dictates that least one of these Ferries be built for Alaska. Walt has been researching and I have pitched to our delegation. We have schedule Generator replacement on the POW and Stikine. We are pitching the conversion of the POW to a Diesel Electric hybrid. AP&T reported at SE Conference that there is excess power available in Hollis already. Currently Skagway looks like a shoo in to get an electric ferry to run Skagway to Haines. They have done all the pre-work and a way ahead of anyone else.
- 7) Operating Status – We are currently running 7 days a week.
- 8) M/V Prince of Wales status – Pier side, ventilation work/repairs is nearing completion.
- 9) MV Stikine Status – In Operation. We were down for 2 days with a broken torsion coupling. We are in the process of coordinating our next big federal project. This will include the last of mechanical overhauls (Except generator replacement) and a full refit of all the passenger accommodations and the Galley.
- 10) Staffing – At present we are fully staffed. I also present our results from the first 2 months of fiscal year 2022.
- 11) On January 13 of 2022 the IFA will be celebrating the 20 year anniversary of the maiden voyage between Ketchikan and Prince of Wales Island. This is a significant accomplishment, and we are working on to commemorate this accomplishment. I/We would like to have a full week of Passenger “Free” travel to thank our passengers. I would also like to put together son “Swag Bags” to distribute to passengers that ride on January 13th to commemorate the event. The Island Post and Ketchikan Daily News are already working on Stories for the event. Please forward to me the names and accomplishments of any founder that contributed to our success so we can rightfully honor them in some way.
- 12) Longest Term IFA Employee – Another Milestone. December 17th, 2021 will be the 20th employment anniversary for Brian Edwards. Followed by Rich Rogers 2-4-2022 and Scott Crayne 12-5-2022, both also 20 year anniversaries. We plan on awarding service awards to these individuals on their anniversaries.

Respectfully Submitted, Ron

Jeff comments that we need to keep in mind why we are here so we need to be sure that a dock is something we should pursue. He also states he rode first class on AK airlines recently for medical and there were 2 dogs across from him that had 'paid for' seats; this may be something to consider when researching service and pet travel. Ron replies that he will research the feasibility of a dock and then it will be the Boards decision, and that he will keep us updated on how we can address the service animal verses pet situation. He continues that we are ok with service animals as they provide an important service to their owner, but people are abusing the option by saying their pet is a service animal; that's what we will try to address. Harvey would like Ron to provide exactly what a service animal is. DeeDee states that her friend got a note from the vet to travel with her animal and is ok with 1 week of free travel but what is estimated cost. Chrissy states she looked at past 3 years and it will be between \$27-\$30K for a week of free travel. DeeDee suggests that maybe just do the day before and after so for 3 days; Ron replies if that's the wishes of the Board that's what we'll do. Sam suggests doing a \$20 round-trip tied to '20 year celebration,' and if ticket system would handle it, and Donna replies it would. Chrissy states that there is rural transportation funding and the way it looks now the IFA could get roughly 1.4 million more so we could withstand potential losses and continues that if we do it longer more people will get to use the travel benefit. Jeff asks if we have a meeting in December and wonders if we could wait on decision and discuss this then, and DeeDee suggests waiting until then as well to see if funding is still good then make the decision. Harvey asks if waiting cuts it too close to get the offer implemented, and Ron says its tight but its ok if Board wants to hold off. Donna suggests monitoring finances and if issues surface before December, we hold a special meeting and readdress if we should offer the free travel. Harvey likes idea of whole week and is concerned about lost revenue but Chrissy's comments state otherwise, and it will be good PR and this is a good way to show we are grateful to our customers. DeeDee agrees, and Donna states that this is big PR opportunity and the sooner we can decide on it the more advertising we could do for it. Harvey and DeeDee suggest that the motion state that if revenue will be adversely affected, we will meet again and readdress.

Motion: Approve to commemorate IFA's 20 years in service January 2022 by offering up to one week of free passenger travel; if it becomes financially unachievable, the Board will call a meeting to address alternatives; moved by DeeDee Jeffreys and seconded by Harvey McDonald. A roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes
Vice Chair	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes
Director	At-Large	DeeDee Jeffreys	yes
Director	Hydaburg	Sam Mooney	yes

8. **Old Business** none

9. **Executive Session** Motion: Recess Regular Meeting at 10:46am and enter into Executive Session in order to maintain a reasonable expectancy of privacy for the purpose of discussing internal personnel structures, and the Board invites IFA Management to participate in one of the two parts to be discussed; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by DeeDee Jeffreys. Motion approved unanimously.

10. **Reconvene Regular Meeting** at 11:29am and roll call was taken

Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	present via teleconference
Vice Chair	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	present via teleconference
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	present via teleconference
Director	Coffman Cove	Brian Wilson	absent
Director	At-Large	DeeDee Jeffreys	present via teleconference
Director	Hydaburg	Sam Mooney	present via teleconference

Staff Present: Ron Curtis, Rich Rogers, Kristine Hansen and Donna Halvorsen

Staff present via teleconference: Walter Marsh and Chrissy Torsey-Lucero

Public Present: None

Public present via teleconference: None

11. New Business

- a) Motion: Approve to offer Driver Free January, February and March 2022; moved by DeeDee Jeffreys and seconded by Otis Gibbons. A roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Vice Chair	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes
Director	At-Large	DeeDee Jeffreys	yes
Director	Hydaburg	Sam Mooney	yes
Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes

- b) Motion: Appoint Doug Rhodes to the At-Large BOD seat; moved by DeeDee Jeffreys and seconded by Otis Gibbons. A roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes
Director	At-Large	DeeDee Jeffreys	yes
Director	Hydaburg	Sam Mooney	yes
Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes
Vice Chair	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes

Jeff states he appreciates working with DeeDee and all of the Board, and that everything has always been very positive. He continues that he's been on many Boards and Councils and this is by far the best one he's served on, and that 'you guys' make it really easy and he really appreciates that. DeeDee agrees and says that she really enjoyed being on the Board and getting to know everyone and working with them. Jeff says this was first time we had to choose from appointees and the process went very well, and he appreciates everyone's valuable input on the decision. Harvey tells DeeDee she is part of our family and to stay in touch, and DeeDee asks if Donna can send her notification when meetings will be and she will try to participate; Donna replies yes!

- c) Motion: Resolution No. 2022-02 Approve that Donald (Otis) Gibbons, Jeffries G Nickerson, Brian Wilson, and as amended adding Doug Rhodes, to be authorized signers on IFA accounts held at First Bank and to add Doug Rhodes; moved by DeeDee Jeffreys and seconded by Otis Gibbons. Motion approved unanimously.

12. Action from Executive Session

Motion: Approve and authorize to follow lawyer's recommendation and move forward; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by DeeDee Jeffries. A roll call was taken and motion passes.

Director	At-Large	DeeDee Jeffreys	yes
Director	Hydaburg	Sam Mooney	yes
Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes
Vice Chair	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes

13. **Board Comments** Jeff states we got a lot of business done today and thanks everyone for a good meeting.

14. **Schedule Next Meeting** TBA but tentatively early December 2021

15. **Adjournment** Motion: Adjourn meeting at 11:44am; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Sam Mooney. Motion approved unanimously.