

Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC) Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Lummi Island Firehall

CALL TO ORDER

Rhayma Blake called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Charles Bailey, Rhayma Blake, Cris Colburn, Jim Dickenson, Patricia Dunn, Judy Olsen, Greg Rice

Also Attending:

WCPW: Rich Hudson - Senior Master

Todd Donovan - WCC.

Also: Mike Skehan, Joan Moye, Wynne & Bill Lee, Bill Fox, Arnie Klaus

FLAG SALUTE

OPEN SESSION (Comments follow minutes when provided)

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020 MINUTES:

Approval of minutes passed unanimously.

LIFAC INTERNAL BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Operations-Rich Hudson, Senior Master

Kpff says Elliott Bay indicated that the c18 Cat engines will fully complement the diesel battery hybrid technology and that the hybrid fuel burn may be better than initially shown. Rich said it is a work in progress but is encouraging.

There will be about 5 more weeks of gravel trucks on the ferry for summer chip seal road project.

LIFAC will present funding assumptions and recommendations to the County Council Public Works Committee (February 25th, 1pm, Council Chambers). Todd noted that all Council Members usually attend committee meetings. The primary recommendation is a 6 year \$.10 ferry district tax. Formation of a ferry district maximizes CRAB funding - \$10m vs \$7m. Rhayma and Pat will lead the presentation with kpff and Roland attending and available. Carla (kpff) will probably not be available.

Rhayma and Pat did a dry run of the presentation so far, which built on kpff's first draft last week. Rhayma also handed out a draft Ferry Fact Sheet to distribute to Council members as well as for future use. There was considerable discussion and several recommendations for the power point and the handout. Rhayma will be the point of contact for presentation changes.

There were questions about ferry surcharges. There will be 2 ferry surcharges, each \$.50, totaling \$1.00. Ferry fares need to be in even dollars for ease of onboard fare collection. The first ferry surcharge will be "forever" and will establish a reserve for the next new ferry,

about 2060. The Whatcom Chief is the only Whatcom County asset without a funding reserve. The 2nd ferry surcharge is for the new (2027) ferry and is forecast to last 10 years in the funding scenarios.

Suggestions and comments from attendees:

- Emphasize time limit/years to ferry district taxation slides.
- State that goal is to create a funding package that is not onerous.
- Emphasize ferry is a Whatcom County asset and the only one with no funding set aside for its replacement
- Whatcom County adopted the ferry operations nearly a century ago in 1924. There is solid precedence for the service
- A slide will be added to describe how the LOS/34 car vessel was determined. Rich will send a list to Rhayma
- FHWA is a reliable funding source, but cannot be used for debt.
- CRAB funds can be used to pay debt.
- Islanders have concerns about making plans for new vessel and terminals when future of lease w/ Lummi Nation is uncertain.
- Whatcom County already pays \$1.5 m per year for a 'bridge' to LI.
- Assessment rate of \$0.10/\$1k property value is recommended because it has the lowest cost to taxpayers.
- Whether double lane loading is in the initial terminal mods.
- Discussed whether to establish a ferry district 'out of the gate' with a rate of zero. This came up at Pat & Rhayma's meeting with Randy and Roland where scenarios were reviewed.
- Possibility of revenue from naming/advertising rights.
- Todd will follow up with legal to determine language for ferry district ordinance.

An island public meeting will be scheduled later.

Committee members requested updated ppt and fact sheet drafts be sent for review prior to the presentation.

Next meeting will be March 11, 6 pm in Bellingham.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.