

**ANDERSON ISLAND CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2021**

This special supplemental meeting was called in order for AICAB to address the proposed ferry rate increases to be addressed prior to the county council's vote.

Call to Order and Verification of Quorum: Chair Jim Cook called the meeting to order at approximately 7 pm. A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Agenda: This meeting was to focus on a single issue: proposed ferry rate increases.

Time Line:

- October 14, 2021—The new ferry administrator presented a budget proposal.
- October 19, 2021---Jacob Anderson formed a committee to research the assumptions behind the proposed rate increases.
- October 21, 2021---We wrote to the County Executive to bring up the following points:
 - Washington State ferries report that “ferry fares are not a viable source of capital funding”.
 - Jacob has found that the county is proposing to treat the ferry differently than any other ferry or transit system.
 - We want to propose a that there be NO increase to fares during the current COVID situation.

DISCUSSION:

The county wants to have a long-term capital savings fund, to reduce reliance on external funding.

In the new ferry contract, there are several performance incentives, including the level of customer satisfaction and the number of completed runs.

There are a number of issues with the new proposal, including the following:

- No communication with AICAB.
- A 15.5% fare increase each year for 8 years is a 300% increase.
- A goal of 97% farebox recovery rate is unrealistic, currently the ferry operates at 50% farebox recovery.
- Capital investment is for expenses expected in 20-30 years. It is highly unusual to use fares to fund capital investments.
- Unnecessary two-boat service five days per week
- Lack of any studies
- A condensed timeline for discussion and implementation
- Washington State has proposed a 2.5% and 5% ferry fare increase for 2021-2023.
- There has been no analysis of the effect of these changes,

Therefore, the Ferry Fare Committee proposes the following:

- A rate increase of 2-5% (excluding Senior rates) for the next two years.
- A rate increase of 10% for single tickets during peak season.
- Friday-Saturday-Sunday two-boat service during peak season.
- Schedule small tweaks to the ferry schedule so that students do not miss classes.

A motion was made to submit this proposal to Representative Jani Hutchins. Motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment: It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting.