

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

February 10, 2025
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Shillo called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on February 10, 2025 at 4:03 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Jim Reid, David Congdon, Tom Cashel, Heather Burnham, and Di Shillo were present at the Community Center, as were Dave McCall and Jessica NeJame. Geb Cook and Jon Haney were present via Zoom. No members of the public were 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: review schedules
5. Corner ramp
6. Warrant: \$98,536.54
7. Budget Modification \$24,684.00
8. Executive: HR personnel
9. Other:
10. Next scheduled meetings – Monday February 24, 2024, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom.
11. Adjournment

Public Comment:

A letter was submitted to ICB concerning the ferry, which was discussed by the Board of Commissioners.

Marine Update:

The proposed schedule for the spring and summer boats were reviewed by the Board of Commissioners. At the Captain's meeting, Jon and his team discussed the cargo runs. Since cargo runs often have fuel and thus allow only a limited number of passengers, they can be a source of confusion and frustration for some, particularly during the summer. In the past, cargo runs were not posted on the schedule. The Board of Commissioners supported removing the cargo runs from the summer schedule.

There have been issues with the Friday boat being late, impacting Fishers Island School (FIS) students getting back to the mainland. FIS Principal Christian Arsenault asked to be notified if the boat is running more than 15 minutes late so that he can notify parents. Jon suggested that this is in part due to the Friday cargo run and could be improved by moving that run to Saturdays. The Board noted that we are almost finished with the winter season schedule and suggested that while we should think of creative solutions for this issue next year, for this year, we should move forward with notifying Christian rather than changing the cargo run schedule.

Commissioner Cashel suggested adding weight to the ballast of Race Point to be greater than 100 tons so that the passenger limits would not apply to the cargo runs. However, Geb mentioned that this would change the licensure requirements for the crew.

Race Point should be back by February 28th, March 1st by the latest. The shipyard sandblasted the hull of the Race Point (standard protocol for identifying weak spots) which created a number of holes that needed to be repaired. This steel work will be needed on the hull, which will come with additional costs.

Corner Ramp:

This work still needs to be done, and there is some money earmarked for it. An RFP will be put out and there may be a more competitive offer. The best chance for doing it will be in the Fall, which will give more time for locating funds.

Boat Design:

Geb discussed the funding for the design and construction of the new boat. He would prefer to get a town bond for this, but some commissioners would rather use money from the general fund for this project. This will be discussed in further detail soon.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2025 –010

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated February 10,2025 in the amount of \$98,536.54.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2025-011

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	\$ 12,000.00
SM1420.4.000.000	Legal Expense	\$ 8,300.00
SM5710.4.000.100	Utilities: New London	\$ 1,500.00
SM1930.4.000.000	Insurance Claims	\$ 2,484.00
SM5712.4.000.000	Commissioner Fees	\$ 400.00
	Total	\$ 24,684.00

Decrease Appropriations:

SM5710.2.000.000	Repairs: All Vessels	\$ 1,100.00
SM5710.4.000.900	Bank & Credit Card Fees	\$ 1,100.00
SM5710.4.000.000	Misc. Other Expense	\$ 900.00
SM5710.4.000.950	Training & Education	\$ 18,000.00
SM5710.4.400.100	Marine Engineering	\$ 1,034.00
SM5710.2.000.100	Repairs: Munnatawket	\$ 2,550.00
	Total	\$ 24,684.00

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays:

Discussion:

Why is so much coming from training and education? This money is left over from 2024. Was there something we didn't do, which we were planning to? Yes, there was a training that didn't happen due to logistical issues, but we are still planning to implement it this year.

Executive Session:

At 4:37 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing HR personnel.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

At 5:29 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, that the Commission exit from Executive Session and resume Public Session.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

Commissioner Reid moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Cashel seconding. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.