

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

June 3, 2025
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Reid called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on June 3, 2025 at 4:03 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Tom Cashel, Heather Congdon, and Jim Reid were present at the Community Center, as were Dave McCall and Jessica NeJame. Geb Cook and Jon Haney were present via Zoom.

Chair Reid 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: None
4. Marine Update: Dock lighting installed
5. Warrant: \$796,093.43.
6. Budget modification: \$112,500.
7. Legal/Settlement: Anthony Car Damage
8. HR Merit
9. HR Merit
10. HR Merit New Hire
11. 2025-2026 Legal Health insurance
12. Other:
 - a. Blood Drive June 4th and August 13, 2025. Free Travel provided for one van and staff;
 - b. FI Conservancy First Team - student rate provided for students working on Parade Grounds;
 - c. Flood Insurance quote CG House
 - d. CG fence removal
 - e. Need approval to proceed with leases with start date of 7/1
 - f. Cancel 5:15/6:15pm boat on Graduation Day Friday June 27, 2025
10. Executive: None
11. Next scheduled meetings –Monday June 16, 2025, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom.
12. Adjournment

Public Comment:

None.

Marine Update:

The Fishers Island School reached out regarding scheduling a charter for the graduation ceremony. This will be on Friday, June 27th. This will be the summer schedule, so the Munnatawket will already be in use. We'd usually have a 5 pm, but we'll cancel it to do a graduation charter with the Munnatawket that runs from 4 pm to 8pm. Not many vehicles are expected to be on this charter, and the school is okay with other passengers riding along on the charter. Notice for this will go out ASAP, including a banner on the website. Next year, the school should provide this date in advance it can be added printed on the summer schedule.

We've been working with the Fishers Island Waste Management District to get them off on the first boat on Monday. They are struggling to find a driver for the early boat on Monday, which is actually why this boat was initially created. This would open up more space and keep trash off the deck on busier boats. We'd prefer that, so we will keep working with them on this.

The preventative maintenance discussed during the last meeting was squared away. We changed a backup air compressor in Race Point.

The dock lighting is now installed on the Fishers Island side.

We have addressed the PESH violations and will submit our responses on time. This should all be squared away now.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2025 –044

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated June 3, 2025 in the amount of \$796,093.43.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Reid

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2025-045**06.03.2025**

TOS Resolution dated:

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District Hereby amends the **2025** Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Increase Expenditures:

AM5710.4.000.950	Training & Education	\$ 2,500.00
SM5710.4.400.100	Expense: Marine Engineering	<u>\$ 110,000.00</u>
	Total	\$ 112,500.00

Decrease Expenditures:

SM1420.4.000.000	Legal Expense	\$ 2,500.00
SM5710.1.000.000	Payroll: Wages & Salaries	\$ 75,000.00
SM5710.4.000.300	Fuel Oil	\$ 30,000.00
SM5710.2.000.300	Repairs: Silver Eel	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
	Total	\$ 112,500.00

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Reid

Nays:

Discussion

Marine engineering is for Glosten. There is more to go on this, which will pull from the general fund. Some of the funds with decreased expenditures will have to have money reallocated back to them.

Legal/Settlement

RESOLUTION 2025-046

WHEREAS the District was presented with a claim by Robert Anthony for the sum of \$3,598.24 as reimbursement damage to his vehicle which resulted from the error of District Staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to resolve this claim to avoid the expense and uncertainties of litigation; and

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District approves the settlement of this claim and directs management to make payment of the insurance premium of \$1,000.00 subject to the approval of District Counsel and the Southold Town Attorney.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Reid

Nays: None

Discussion

Conversation ensued about how we can avoid incidents like this in the future. In general, ferry staff will not allow a vehicle to be dropped off without a driver if they are unable to operate it – this was just an accident.

HR Merit Increase

Resolution 2025-047

WHEREAS, the Fishers Island Ferry District has identified the need for expanded oversight and coordination of terminal operations ; and

WHEREAS, employee #37626 has demonstrated the skills, experience, and commitment necessary to assume increased responsibilities within the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that effective June 12, 2025, employee #37626 shall be promoted to an hourly rate of \$33.70.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Reid

Nays: None

Discussion

We said we wouldn't do more merit increases, but this is a raise based on a new position.

HR Merit Increase

RESOLUTION 2025-048

Whereas the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District would like to recognize the exemplary efforts for work performed during 2024, let it hereby be RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves a merit pay increase for employee #46717 to \$18.50 effective June 12, 2025.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Reid

Nays: None

Discussion

We said we wouldn't do more merit increases, but this is a returnee that we didn't think was coming back and thus wasn't included in the earlier merit increases. This is a correction to our prior merit increases.

HR New Hire

RESOLUTION 2025-049

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect June 12, 2025, Andrew Nicholas as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$17.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect June 13, 2025 Mr. Nicholas from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 15, 2025, Mr. Nicholas will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Cashel, Burnham, Reid

Nays: None

Legal/Health Insurance

RESOLUTION 2025 – 050

WHEREAS the District desires to put in place new health insurance coverage for its qualified employees commencing July 1, 2025`; and

WHEREAS the insurance broker Risk Strategies presented an insurance option; and

WHEREAS the Oxford Bronze PPO HRA 6700 health insurance plan (the “Plan”) was selected based on coverage and terms; and

WHEREAS the Oxford Bronze PPO HRA 6700 health insurance plan is a high deductible plan and a Health Reimbursement Account (“HRA”) can be combined with this health insurance plan, requiring the services of a third-party HRA plan administrator, and Progressive Benefit Solutions, LLC was selected to provide these services; and

WHEREAS the District through the HRA will reimburse employees enrolled in the Plan up to \$5,000 per single employee or up to \$10,000 per enrollee greater than a single employee for Plan year out-of-pocket expenses; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that commencing July 1, 2025, the District shall make available to its qualified employees the Oxford Bronze PPO HSA 6700 health insurance plan; and

be it further RESOLVED that management is authorized to execute all documents relating to the Plan subject to review by counsel; and

be it further RESOLVED that commencing July 1, 2025 the District authorizes management to execute all documents relating to establishment of and oversight over a HRA with Progressive Benefit Solutions, LLC subject to review by counsel; and

be it further RESOLVED that for the year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 only, the District shall fund the HRA sufficiently to reimburse employees enrolled in the Plan up to \$5,000 per single employee or up to \$10,000 per enrollee greater than a single employee for plan year out-of-pocket expenses; and

be it further RESOLVED that management be authorized and instructed to work with Risk Strategies to review any other related documents and in general to finalize and put in place these two related health care coverage programs commencing July 1, 2025 subject to review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel
Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, and Reid
Nays: None

Discussion

This is the same policy that was in place last year, and we are told that there are not other options available. The cost of this plan has increased 10.39%.

Other:

There is a blood drive on June 4 and August 13. Last year, we provided free travel to the van and staff. We will do so again this year.

The Fishers Island Conservancy FIRST Team consists of six students from Texas who will be here for six weeks. They stay at the Connecticut College Housing in New London. We gave them the student rate last year and will do so again.

The quote for the flood insurance on the Coast Guard House is \$8,500. There are potentially cheaper federal options through FEMA that will be looked into, in addition to getting other quotes.

Every other panel of the fence around the Coast Guard House has been removed. Conversation ensued that it would be better to move the whole fence back around 10 feet so that things are demarcated in a better way. A split rail fence may be a cheap and attractive option. A back panel will also be removed to allow the tenants of the house and the boat slips to access the property when the boats are loading/unloading and the driveway is blocked.

The BoC reviewed a spreadsheet with proposed lease rates. These rates seemed to be consistent.

A letter was sent to Jared Toldo informing him that manufacturing was not allowed per his lease. All the supplies are there for kiln-drying wood, but he as far as we know, he hasn't actually been operating the kiln. Upon revisiting the property, some improvements had been made. Some vehicles were removed. It is still not in full compliance, though it's better than it was. Conversation ensued about if there was another option in the portfolio that he could rent where manufacturing would be allowed, as the area that he is in is meant for storage only. Right now, there is not something available. These things will need to be addressed in his lease, which David Congdon should review, so it will be discussed further at the meeting on the 16th.

Benkard is renting the theater again this year and asked for the same lease agreement. It's \$2000 and they pay the utilities.

Three out of four of the slips at the Coast Guard House are rented. The lease language for those came from Chris Finan and the FIDCO dock. There are also insurance requirements that should be addressed in the lease requirements. The leases are already signed, but Commissioner Cashel will share another slip lease as an example.

Executive Session:

None.

General Discussion:

Commissioner Burnham moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Cashel seconding.
Meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.