

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

October 14, 2025
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Burnham called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on October 14, 2025, at 4:05 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

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

Chair Burnham 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: RFP, extra Saturday run, North Star, corner ramp
5. Warrant: \$114,981.65
6. Budget Modification: \$41,500
7. Approve 2026 Budget: \$7,179,390.00
8. HR New Hire
9. Legal FAA Fund Distribution
10. Other: Kucsera lease, airport system, ticketing system
11. Executive: Real estate, legal
12. Next scheduled meetings – Monday October 27, 2025, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom
13. Adjourn

Public Comment:

None.

Marine Update:

Only two of the three shipyards came to visit in response to the RFP. J. Goodison Company and Fairhaven Shipyard visited for about an hour and a half. Bids are due back on October 21st. Regarding the weather this weekend, the captains and crew did a very good job. Communication with management was good. If there had been more wind, the Munnatawket would not have been able to sail as it was challenging the make the turn in that boat with the inefficient back thruster. The charter ferry had a slight modification but worked out fine.

There is an extra run Sunday, October 19; it's a 10:00 am trip for a school fundraiser event. There will be a 7:00, a 10:00, and an 11:30. The 11:30 will depart late -- it won't make it back from the 10:00 run on time, but it was the best we could do schedule-wise to get that extra trip in. The winter schedule starts this Thursday.

Per the new boat design, the final deliverables came in from Glosten. We are waiting on a shaft brake arrangement, which we added towards the end after hearing that it was something Cross Sound is using for their boats.

Jon talked to Dave Riley from Cross Sound and the North Star was confirmed as being available for us. It was an H-boat, but they gave up that certificate and now it's an I-boat. It requires a 500-ton license. It's basically a cargo boat, not a passenger boat, and the Coast Guard gave it a 16-passenger limit. Jon reached out to the Coast Guard to see if we could potentially get more people on it in case of an emergency, and we may pay for another inspection so that they can evaluate this. We rely on the North Star for major projects and as a safety net, and Dave Riley indicated that they keep that boat for Plum Island and for us. The Plum Island project is ending soon. They don't make much off the charters from us and it will be up to the owners if they keep the boat. They also had a bad experience with someone who was chartering that boat for construction of a home on FI. If they keep the boat, the cost of the charters will likely go up. Jon emphasized that on-island projects won't get done if we don't have either the North Star or a new boat. Jon also checked in with Block Island and the Manitou is available, but it doesn't have a back thruster, so its use is limited in rough conditions. However, it could be available within a few hours, which is faster than previously thought.

The Board agreed that we need to have two boats with commercial, industrial capacity.

The corner ramp RFP is going to go out in about two weeks. We have \$1,250,000 set aside, and we will likely be short. This needs to move forward, and we may need to up our bond. This project would start in the spring. The price is higher than anticipated due to unknown reasons, but potentially the cost of materials or labor, or accommodations, which we could potentially offset.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2025 –080

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated October 14, 2025 in the amount of \$114,981.65.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, and Reid

Nays:

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2025-081

10.14.2025

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:

SM5610.2.000.000	Airport CapEx	\$	20,000.00
SM5710.4.000.900	Bank & Credit Card Fees	\$	7,000.00
SM5710.4.000.600	Janitorial Supplies	\$	1,000.00
SM5710.4.000.400	Printing	\$	500.00
SM9060.8.000.000	Medical Insurance	\$	13,000.00
	Total	\$	41,500.00

Decrease Expenditures:

SM5709.2.000.200	Docks & Terminals	\$	15,000.00
SM5709.2.000.100	Repairs: Rental Buildings	\$	3,500.00
SM5710.2.000.100	Ferry: Repairs-Munnatawket	\$	2,000.00
SM5710.4.000.500	Computer/IT Support	\$	2,000.00
SM1910.4.000.100	General Insurance	\$	3,000.00
SM1420.4.000.000	Legal Expense	\$	10,000.00
SM5710.4.000.800	Uniforms	\$	1,500.00
SM9030.8.000.000	Social Security Expense	\$	1,000.00
SM1910.4.000.300	Workers Comp Exp	\$	2,500.00
SM5713.4.000.000	FI U.S. Mail	\$	1,000.00
	Total	\$	41,500.00

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, and Reid

Nays:

2026 Budget

RESOLUTION 2025 - 082

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the 2026 Budget in the amount of \$7,179,390.00.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Reid, and Shillo

Nays: None

Some adjustments were made to this since the last time it was reviewed. Commissioner Cashel asked if we could pull from what was saved in 2025 to reduce the budget for 2026 to reduce the burden on taxpayers, but that money goes into the general fund, which often needs to be used for larger projects. Commissioners Cashel and Burnham noted that we should discuss the balance sheet during meetings. It makes sense to keep money in the general fund if we are to go through with purchasing a new boat, but the commissioners indicated that we should minimize the amount of unallocated money in the general fund. Some commissioners would like to reevaluate the ratios of taxes to revenue to rely more on taxes than on ticket sales. Commissioner Burnham flagged that it would be helpful to know what is and isn't earmarked in the general fund. Additional ideas to pass on savings to Fishers Island property owners were discussed.

HR New Hire

RESOLUTION 2025 –083

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect October 23, 2025, Frederick Stanley as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$19.00 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Reid, and Shillo

Nays:

This person has a couple years of experience with the Block Island Ferry, and some certificates that we don't require but that are good to have.

LEGAL

RESOLUTION 2025-084

WHEREAS, The Town of Southold and the Fishers Island Ferry District, a non-profit entity providing public services, including the equipping, maintaining, repairing and operation of the Elizabeth Field Airfield for the purpose of transporting persons, goods, wares, and merchandise to and from Fishers Island.

WHEREAS, The Town is the recipient of infrastructure grants made available through the Federal Aviation Administration and is desirous of distributing such funds to the Fishers Island Ferry District ("District") and the District is willing to accept such distribution and become a subrecipient.

NOW THEREFORE, The Fishers Island Ferry District Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes and directs George B. Cook, District Manager, to execute all such subrecipient agreements.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Reid, and Shillo

Nays:

Other:

Dave updated the general lease for rental properties, and for Kucsera, who wants to use a concrete slab to restore a car, added a rider with provisions such as a requirement for insurance and use for personal use only. Commissioner Burnham inquired if this language is being used consistently across leases and it is.

Dave has been in discussions with Vector Airport Systems about collection of airport fees. That is what Yale-New Haven and Tweed use. What we're currently using is a one-man shop out of Rhode Island that may not have the same strengths. This would cost a bit more money but may ultimately bring in more. The contract will go through the town attorney, and if it all goes well, they will start putting hardware down on December 1.

The contract with Anchor expires March 31st, and we have three months to let them know if we'll be continuing. Fair Harbor has come back to us saying that they have improved their systems. The Anchor app is good, but we've had a number of issues with them and they've said they can't do what we want to do with ticketing. However, Fair Harbor was also not very responsive when we were clients. Nantucket has a nice system that they created themselves, and it could be worthwhile to reach out to see if they'd be willing to let us pay for it. Fair Harbor might be able to provide info about a ferry that is similar to ours to learn more about how similar ferries define categories, track information, and improve their systems.

Executive Session:

At 4:53 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate, legal.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Reid, and Shillo

Nays: None

At 5:13 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Reid, and Shillo

Nays: None

Next meeting is Monday, October 27, 2025.

Commissioner Shillo moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Cashel seconding. Meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.