

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

November 10, 2025
General Meeting at 4:20pm
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 November 10, 2025, at 4:21 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

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

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: None
4. Marine Update: October Traffic
5. Cybersecurity Drill update
6. Warrant: \$61,533.89
7. Budget Modification: \$4000.00
8. Mail Delivery Contract
9. NL Snow Removal Contract
10. Airport System Contract
11. Workboat Show
12. Professional Services Hire
13. Other: Ferries Conference briefing
14. Executive: Legal
15. Next scheduled meetings – Monday November 24, 2025, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom
16. Adjourn

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Marine Update:

Photos for the 2026 ID cards are underway. Notice has been posted on FishersIsland.net and on a poster at the post office. About 25 of these are done. ID photos will also be taken at the senior lunch next week (11/20).

Jon Haney and John Morgan went to the PVA meeting. They learned about some new builds, but that traditional diesel is still the cheapest option for fuel. Another topic was cyber hygiene and defense against cyber-attacks. Effects of the Big Beautiful Bill on taxes long term and effects of the shutdown were also covered.

Last week, Coast Guard officials came up from Washington, DC to stage multiple cyber-attacks against our system. Star Computers, our IT support contractor, was present to learn and provide support. The officials attempted to get onto the Fishers Island Ferry servers and network. The full report will come out in about forty days, but overall, our systems were good. One area that they were able to penetrate was the resident login for ticketing, so we may move towards multi-factor authentication for logins and emails. With the firewalls that we have in place, Star Computers was able to catch that the system had been hacked and were able to put a patch into it. Once we receive the full report, we will look into what kind of insurance is needed for cyber-attacks. Additionally, we need to establish an incident response plan for if the ferry ever does get hacked. Star Computers will help with that, though technically, they are IT and cyber support, not a cyber protection team

Another topic is planning ahead for when our current captains may leave. Jon is having conversations with the Plum Island staff who may be looking for new opportunities, with that ferry projected to discontinue by 2028. The traffic, the weather, and the route are all very similar, so they would be great candidates. There's a deckhand, an engineer, and possibly a couple captains. Jon has already met with one of those captains. Over the next couple weeks, we'll meet with the union to see how we can be competitive when it comes time to hire new captains.

Reminder that we're using the Munnatawket every Tuesday,

Jon let Fairhaven know that they were awarded the shipyard contract. J. Goodison is a little quicker, but their bid was higher.

There's an RFP out for the corner ramp and a site visit tomorrow.

October traffic was up on passengers, down on vehicles and commercials. Columbus Day weekend was slightly up on passengers, down on auto traffic. The weather may have had something to do with this. There was still a 10% increase on revenue though.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2025 –093

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated November 10, 2025 in the amount of \$61,533.89.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays:

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2025-094

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:

SM5710.4.000.950	Training/Education	\$	<u>4,000.00</u>
	Total	\$	4,000.00

Decrease Expenditures:

SM5709.2.000.100	Repairs: Rental Buildings	\$	<u>4,000.00</u>
	Total	\$	4,000.00

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon
Ayes: Commissioners Congdon, Shillo, and Burnham
Nays:

Mail Delivery

RESOLUTION 2025-095

WHEREAS the current contract with William Bloethe for USPS mail pick-up and delivery expires on December 31, 2025, only one bid was received, and management recommends renewing its contract with Mr. Bloethe at the rate of \$13,200 per year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, subject to review by counsel, that the Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the quote from Mr. Bloethe for a three-year contract, directs and authorizes Mr. David McCall to execute the contract, and authorizes management to pay invoices up to that amount when properly invoiced and approved.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes : Commissioners Burnham, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Snow Plowing Service New London Terminal

RESOLUTION 2025- 096

WHEREAS, the Ferry District's New London terminal requires snow clearing and removal services; and

WHEREAS, management advertised in a local publication and received proposals from three vendors, and has determined that Hayes Services, LLC, is a responsible bidder; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby accept the proposal of Hayes Services, LLC for the period of December 1, 2025 through March 31, 2028 in the amount of \$8,250.00 per year for 3 years - and authorize and direct management to execute the service contract, subject to the approval of District Counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2025-097

Vector Airport Systems

WHEREAS the Fishers Island Ferry District (“District”), as operator of the Fishers Island Airport, is required to collect landing and parking fees from visiting aircraft; and

WHEREAS the District issued a **Request for Proposals** for an automated aircraft billing and collection system, duly advertised on October 20–21, 2025, and received one responsive proposal from **Vector Airport Systems, LLC** (“Vector”); and

WHEREAS the District has determined that Vector’s proposal represents the **best value** to the District and that the proposed fee structure is fair and reasonable, as documented in the procurement file;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the District to enter into a professional-services agreement for three years with Vector Airport Systems, LLC, for provision of aircraft tracking and billing services, **at a rate not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of gross landing-fee revenues or such lesser amount as approved by counsel**, subject to:

1. Review and approval of the contract by District Counsel and the Town Attorney as to form and legality;
2. Inclusion of audit, indemnification, non-assignment, and termination-for-cause clauses consistent with Town Procurement Policy; and
3. Confirmation that all revenues shall remain the property of the District and shall be deposited in District accounts prior to payment of any service fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair or authorized Commissioner is empowered to execute said agreement and related documents.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Congdon, Shillo, and Burnham

Nays: None

Discussion: This is a resolution, not the contract. The contract needs to be reviewed by the town attorney.

Workboat Show

RESOLUTION 2025 – 098

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby grants permission to Marine Operations Manager, Jon Haney, and Marine Engineers, John Paradis and Josh Hartley to attend the International Workboat Show December 3rd – December 5, 2025, in New Orleans, LA. All expenses for registration and travel, including meals, not to exceed \$5,000.00, will be a legal charge to the 2025 District budget.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2025-099

Financial Modeling Services

WHEREAS the Fishers Island Ferry District (“District”) requires short-term professional assistance to develop financial models related to the planned replacement of a ferry vessel; and WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners has determined that **Emil Tullberg**, a qualified Island-based professional with experience in financial modeling, is uniquely positioned to provide these services in a cost-effective and timely manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District hereby engages **Emil Tullberg** as an **independent contractor** to prepare a ferry-replacement financial model at a rate of **\$25 per hour, not to exceed forty (40) hours**, consistent with the Town of Southold Procurement Policy for professional services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such engagement shall be subject to a written agreement approved by District Counsel and the Town Attorney as to form and legality, including standard provisions on indemnification, confidentiality, and independent-contractor status.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion: With the proposed new ferry comes additional costs. The models will tell us what a \$21 million ferry today will cost us annually for the next 5 years, 10 years, etc. That way, we can communicate that information to the public. The models will also account for different scenarios that vary how much money is coming from where. The models will also help predict potential revenue. Commissioner Burnham asked how Mr. Tullberg will be supervised. Geb, Tom, and Dave will provide the initial inputs for the model, the vision, and check-in points.

Other:

Geb attended a conference and learned about a cybersecurity attack on a different ferry. They went over the need for a cyber response plan. Geb and Jon will work on that this week.

Geb spoke with the steamship authority about their ticketing system. They use E-Dea, out of Italy. They said that they would be able to scale their system down. This system would have the ability to use RFID. They could also do an EZ-pass style scanner for vehicles.

Federal grants are generally good, but they can increase your costs because of the Buy American clause. There aren't a lot of shipbuilding items that are readily available in the United States, so there are additional administrative costs to find these items. Commissioner Congdon asked about additional sources of funds. One source could be the Ferry Boat Fund. Money from the Federal Highway Administration is distributed to the states, who administer the money. That money is available to us and could be significant, though it takes a while to get. This fund is added to every year.

The cost of shipbuilding has gone up considerably since 2020. Geb was told it would be better to move quickly with the new ferry instead of waiting, because costs will only continue to go up. There is not much new construction going on.

Executive Session:

At 5:09 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, 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 Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

General

Next meeting is November 24, 2025.

Geb suggested spending \$1,000 on a custom Fishers Island Ferry paver for the new Coast Guard Museum. The Board asked Geb to figure out how to do this and submit this as a resolution for the next meeting.

Commissioner Burnham moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Cashel seconding. Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.