

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

February 16
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Congdon called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on February 16, 2026, at 4:06 pm at the Fishers Island Community Center and via Zoom.

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

Chair Congdon 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: Medical fare abatement, Ben/ Nici Christopher, Lily Carrol
4. Marine Update: Munnatawket, Memorial Day, hiring
5. Warrant: \$126,040.24
6. Budget Modification Amend 2026-008: \$97,062.00
7. Budget Mod: \$4,000.00
8. Bond Petition
9. HR Promotion Amend
10. EFPR Audit
11. Other: None
12. Executive: HR
13. Next scheduled meetings – March 2, 2026, 4pm
14. Adjourn

Public Comment:

Medical fare abatement for ongoing physical therapy through March was approved.

Ben and Nici bought a house in Vermont, but now they want their resident cards. Residents are supposed to be here for nine months out of the year. Discussion ensued about ensuring that people are following the rules, and that the rules are being applied fairly to everyone. This request will be approved, but if they are gone for three months, then they will lose their resident status.

Lily Carrol proposed installing a statue of Bodi (a dog), in memory of her dad Kevin, in Ferry Park. It is ferry land, but the FI Conservancy manages the property, and Lighthouse Works manages the public art nearby. Also, memorials present a slippery slope as it creates a precedent. Concerns were expressed about the statue being a trip hazard or obtrusive for mowing, so alternative ideas were discussed. One idea is to get a small statue to put on top of the half wall of the freight building. We also need to discuss with FI Conservancy. Di will communicate this to Lily and we will revisit after talking to Tom Sargent.

Captain Chris Newell took two of the teak benches home and is rehabbing them.

Marine Update:

The work on the Munnatawket is going well. Fairhaven initially anticipated completing the work by the end of this week, but it will not be finished until the week of March 2nd as one of the necessary products had a three-week lead time. Last week, we talked about if we could buy a single propellor or if it needed to be a pair. Jon confirmed with Wildcat and they said that it will be okay even if they aren't identical. If it was on a speedy little boat, it does need to be a pair. For this application, it'll be close enough.

On the staffing front, we lost a good full timer to a tug company. It's what he wants to do. He'll be the second guy we've lost who wants to go on tugs or ships.

We've had three applicants from Plum Island Ferry employees, two captains and one deckhand. It's a great opportunity for us. Geb and Jon have a plan for hiring them. The captains are very experienced, and one of them even used to be a captain here back in 2006. Due to union requirements, they will have to come in a couple steps low and that will hold them up for a year. Once they've been here a year, they can blast up through the levels. One of the captains did say that he would not be willing to work the deck for a year. Jon will work on the hiring strategy and negotiating with the union to get these guys hired. Our contract is up at the end of the year so we'll be having negotiations anyways.

Jon is still searching for a solution for cargo runs next year when the Race Point is out. The Long Island Ferry is not willing to do a long-term lease for the North Star. They aren't very big on us chartering the boat at all as it is hard to staff, but they are willing to do it to help us out. The rate is \$1,200 an hour with a four-hour minimum. Jon is looking into other options, like portable storage. They have double-walled tanks up to 20,000 gallons, and we could potentially keep it at the airport. Jon is getting a quote.

The spring schedule is queued up and ready to be published, pending confirmation on a few things. Last year, all the Memorial Day boats were sold out. The first three in the morning were sold out and full, the

rest of the boats were sold out but all had room with progressively more room as the day went on. The last boat had like 18 spaces on it. Adding another morning boat could be good though, because if people can't make reservations, they might not come. We will add another morning boat.

On Saturday morning, there was an issue where people were loaded on the boat but then unloaded and some of the standby cars didn't make it back on. The boat was also late. This is because there was a reservation for the grinder, but ultimately it was causing a tilt and needed to be loaded on at a different angle, taking up more room than expected. So, there was a plan in place, but that plan had to change for safety reasons. We should share that information with people in the moment to provide an explanation.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2026 –017

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated February 16, 2026 in the amount of \$126,040.24.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays:

RESOLUTION 2026-018**RESOLUTION 2026-008 AMENDS****02.05.2026****REVISED**TOS Resolution: **#2026-153**

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	\$ 30,251.00	
SM5710.4.000.100	Utilities: NL	\$ 735.00	
SM5710.1.000.000	Payroll Expense	\$ 46,076.00	
SM9060.8.000.000	Medical Insurance Exp	\$ 20,000.00	
	Total	\$ 97,062.00	<u>\$97,062.00</u>

Increase Revenues:

SM.5990.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>\$ 41,265.00</u>
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Decrease Expenditures:

SM5710.4.000.300	Fuel Oil	\$ 22,894.00	
SM5710.4.000.900	Bank & Credit Card Fees	\$ 956.00	
SM1910.4.000.100	Insurance: General	\$ 412.00	
SM1420.4.000.000	Legal Expense	\$ 10,000.00	
SM5710.4.000.000	Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 445.00	
SM5711.4.000.000	Office Expense	\$ 596.00	
SM5710.4.000.400	Printing	\$ 423.00	
SM5710.4.000.625	Terminal Supplies	\$ 1,028.00	
SM5710.4.000.950	Training/Education	\$ 2,771.00	
SM5710.4.000.800	Uniforms	\$ 219.00	
SM5710.4.000.700	UPS Freight (FI)	\$ 290.00	
SM9030.8.000.000	Social Security Expense	\$ 5,620.00	
SM1950.4.000.000	Property Tax Expense	\$ 50.00	
SM1930.4.000.000	Insurance Claims Expense	\$ 1,000.00	
SM5710.4.400.100	Marine Engineering	\$ 7,397.00	
SM5712.4.000.000	Commissioner Fees	\$ 1,150.00	
SM5713.4.000.000	USPS Mail	\$ 546.00	
	Total	\$ 55,797.00	<u>\$97,062.00</u>

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays:

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2026-019

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:		
GL Acct #	GL Account	Amount
SM5610.2.000.000	Airport Capital Expenditure	3,000.00
SM1930.4.000.000	Insurance Claims	1,000.00
Total		4,000.00
Decrease Expenditures:		
GL Acct #	GL Account	Amount
SM5710.2.000.000	Repairs: Both Vessels	(3,000.00)
SM5710.4.000.200	Utilities: FI	(1,000.00)
Total		(4,000.00)
Resolution Balance		0.00

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

Bond Petition

RESOLUTION 2026-020

RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District, in the Town of Southold, in the County of Suffolk, New York, as follows:

Section 1: This Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized to submit to the Town Board a written petitions, subscribed by all the Commissioners of the District, requesting the Town Board to call a public hearing for the purpose of hearing all persons interested in the subject matter thereof, being the increase and improvement of the facilities of the District pursuant to Section 202-b of the Town Law, consisting of the replacement of the South Vehicle Offloading Ramp at the District's Fishers Island Terminal and to provide financing for said increase in the estimated cost of ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,600,000.00), as hereinabove referred to in the Recitals hereof; it is hereby determined that the Project at said estimated cost is in the public interest.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution, subscribed by each of the Commissioners of the District, shall be submitted to the Town Board together with the petition herein authorized.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Aye: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nay:

Discussion:

This is for the corner ramp. Commissioner Congdon asked if we looked into other options for funding this. We previously applied for a grant for this but we didn't get it. Geb is looking into a climate resilience grant to help fund it. If we don't spend the bond money, we can give it back, but the bond money cannot be paid back with grant funds.

HR Promotion

RESOLUTION 2026 – 021

AMEND

HR Promotion

RESOLUTION 2026 – 009

WHEREAS employee Abigail Voigt has demonstrated the skills, experience, and commitment necessary to assume increased responsibilities within the District:

WHEREAS her manager has recommended that she be promoted to Cashier (Commercial Reservationist) and her wages be increased to \$30.00.

THEREFORE, it is RESOLVED that Ms. Voigt be promoted to Cashier (Commercial Reservationist) and her wages be increased from \$23.20 per hour to \$30.00 per hour with effect February 19, 2026.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

This was amended as there was a typo in Abigail's name and Civil Service asked that her title be rewritten as it is now stated above.

2025 Audit

RESOLUTION 2026 - 022

WHEREAS, Resolution 2024 -019 included an option to renew EFPR Group, CPA, PLLC, (EFPR) for the year ending December 31, 2025.

WHEREAS, a single audit of the 2025 Airport Capital expenditures, related to the FAA Runway Rehabilitation project is currently required by the Town of Southold to remain in compliance with Federal guidelines and EFPR has revised its 2025 engagement letter to include the cost of the single audit in the amount of \$5000.

THEREFORE, it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the revised engagement letter from EFPR for the December 31, 2025 fiscal year for a total cost of \$23,700 including the \$5000 Single Audit.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

This project met the cost threshold to require a special audit all on its own. This letter is to engage the attorneys to do the audit. This is included in the project expenses.

Other:

There was no other business.

Executive Session:

At 5:12 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

At 5:39 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Next meeting is March 2.

Commissioner Cashel moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Shillo seconding. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.