

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

March 2
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 March 2, 2026, at 4:01 pm at the Fishers Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners David Congdon, Tom Cashel, Heather Burnham, and Jim Reid were present at the Community Center, as were Geb Cook, Dave McCall, Jessica NeJame, and Town Commissioner Kate Stevens. Commissioner Shillo arrived belatedly. Jon Haney and town comptroller Michelle Nickonovitz was 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 requests
4. Marine Update: Shipyard, blizzard response, fuel runs, spring schedule
5. Warrant: \$151,752.98
6. HR Langan
7. HR New Hire
8. HR Merits
9. Other: Budget analysis, Bryan Koitz container area, media coordinator, Ferry Boat Funds
10. Executive: HR
11. Next scheduled meetings – March 16, 2026, 4pm
12. Adjourn

Public Comment:

Two requests were made for medical fare abatement, which were discussed in Executive Session. Both requests were approved.

Marine Update:

Jon went to the shipyard last Thursday. Everything is pretty much done, though the deck still needs to be finished. The materials were on backorder, but they arrived on Friday and they're working on it now. The snow set them back. The Munnatawket will be back in service by the end of this week or early next week.

The captains and crew did a great job with the blizzard. Folks came in early to shovel the boat out and it was ready to go for the 11:30.

Regarding the strategy for next winter's fuel runs, Jon reached out to a rental company to get a quote on a 7,000-gallon standby tank for three months. That would be just under \$33,000. Some contractors might be interested in this, though we would have to check regulations to see if that is an option. Right now, if we have snow like this, the best option is to reduce the 11:30 trips to 16 passengers at least three days a week. Commissioner Burnham asked what the numbers look like on those boats, mentioning that this might conflict with school trips or events. Another backup is to run fuel at night, but this is an issue with the fuel company drivers, who are not willing to drive off hours. Discussion ensued about other alternatives.

The spring schedule starts April 2. That is now available online with reservations open through June 10. Commissioner Burnham mentioned that someone should ask Jane to let the public know that Memorial Day reservations are up.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2026 –023

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated March 2, 2026, in the amount of \$151,752.98.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid

Nays:

HR

RESOLUTION 2026-024

WHEREAS Employee Nicholas Langan has resigned from his position as Full-Time Deckhand (FIFD) effective February 19, 2026; and wishes to remain with FIFD as Part-Time Deckhand. His pay rate remains the same.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts the change of status for employee Nicholas Langan with effect February 19, 2026, from full-time to part-time.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid

Nays: None

HR New Hire

Resolution 2026-025

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore, it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect March 12, 2026, Mark Chanski as a part-time Senior Deckhand at a rate of \$25.00 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid

Nays: None

Discussion: This is one of the Plum Island guys. He captained the Munnatawket twenty years ago. He can help cover captains this summer. He's starting part-time because he's still with Plum Island. He'll get a deck wage on the deck, once he checks the boxes he'll become a junior captain. Then, he'll have a split rate until he hits a certain number of hours. Once he sticks it out a year, he'll be good to go.

HR/Merits**RESOLUTION 2026-026**

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to increase their wages and salaries as listed with effect March 5, 2026:

EE #	Pay Status	Hire Date	ST Rate Current	ST Rate Proposed	% Increase
14021	FT	03/15/17	29.71	30.90	4.00%
15254	PT	06/05/24	17.87	18.50	3.53%
15814	PT	04/04/21	19.79	20.28	2.50%
16466	PT	09/15/15	20.50	21.00	2.44%
38461	FT	07/01/20	22.07	24.00	8.74%
25986	FT	02/01/17	77.16	80.25	4.00%
31600	PT	04/18/12	17.82	18.50	3.82%
32701	PT	10/29/15	23.92	24.52	2.51%
34011	PT	05/02/22	18.66	19.00	1.83%
34899	FT	08/06/13	37.78	38.72	2.50%
38054	PT	10/08/01	18.85	21.00	11.40%
38115	FT	06/21/01	42.36	44.50	5.06%
40175	FT	04/10/24	20.50	24.00	17.09%
40198	PT	04/17/25	17.43	18.31	5.05%
40842	FT	10/25/12	57.28	59.57	4.00%
40949	PT	06/18/20	24.31	24.95	2.63%
40949	PT	06/18/20	33.10	33.92	2.48%
40967	FT	09/08/22	34.44	36.02	4.60%
14786	PT	06/08/22	29.79	31.00	4.06%
41786	PT	06/08/22	23.11	24.27	5.02%
44205	FT	05/19/21	19.80	20.30	2.50%
45577	PT	02/20/18	28.27	29.03	2.69%
45577	PT	02/20/18	22.47	23.03	2.49%
46717	PT	06/14/22	18.96	20.00	5.50%
46831	PT	05/08/24	16.81	17.50	4.10%
47453	PT	03/13/24	19.71	20.20	2.49%
48246	PT	04/23/19	19.23	20.28	5.46%
57642	FT	07/12/94	43.57	44.65	2.48%
57692	FT	09/09/21	44.03	45.79	4.00%
57702	FT	06/06/18	26.86	27.50	2.39%
57915	PT	10/09/25	17.43	18.31	5.05%
58523	PT	05/01/25	17.43	18.31	5.05%
58676	FT	06/24/97	43.34	44.00	1.53%
60744	FT	11/30/20	43.66	45.41	4.00%
62812	PT	09/09/13	38.36	39.31	2.48%
62959	PT	06/12/25	17.43	18.31	5.05%
64244	PT	09/07/21	19.23	19.71	2.50%
66110	FT	03/04/02	47.52	49.89	4.99%
76874	PT	05/22/24	16.81	17.50	4.11%
78039	PT	05/29/25	17.43	18.31	5.05%
78418	PT	05/22/24	18.32	20.00	9.17%
79177	PT	01/27/25	23.11	23.68	2.47%

79935	PT	06/16/22	19.23	19.50	1.41%
81292	PT	05/01/25	17.43	18.31	5.05%
81340	PT	04/17/25	17.43	18.31	5.05%
82965	FT	05/11/23	23.20	30.00	29.31%
83357	FT	05/05/15	28.14	29.50	4.84%

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid, and Shillo

Nays: None

Other:

The Suffolk County Budget Office can conduct a free budget analysis for the ferry. Geb suggested that this would clarify impacts of purchasing a new boat on property taxes and rate structures. Commissioner Cashel expressed concern about being subject to outside oversight and deadlines when we could hire our own person to do this. He also expressed concerns about staff time and availability of the data. Discussion ensued about benefits and risks. Ultimately, the Board of Commissioners expressed support for management to pursue this. The formal letter requesting this must be received by March 10.

Bryan Koitz is a contractor planning to do more work out here. He wants to put a 44' container on the Island to keep tools. Management will come back with a plan for this. There may be room by Jimmy Ski's or by the airport. The ground may need to be levelled somewhat.

John Morgan put together a proposal for the media coordinator role. The Board was supportive of the proposal, but it will still need to be negotiated with the union. There is some precedent with roles with monthly stipends. Commissioner Burnham asked if the union might be able to approve this on a temporary basis and formalize it during the negotiations. Commissioner Congdon expressed reservations about the per post structure versus folding it into someone's job responsibilities, as this is an important role that needs to be executed with a minimum number of posts. There should also be a conversation about important things to focus on, privacy of people, etc.

Geb is working to get money from the Ferry Boat Funds. \$500,000 is currently available to us. It must be used for the terminals or ferries. We haven't used this since 2003 for the New London terminal. To get these funds, you get your congressman to go advocate for you. We'll use this to offset costs of the ramp.

Some discussions were had about ticket pricing options for vehicles. Commissioner Burnham suggested ticket books with 5 and 10 tickets and a decreasing cost the more you get as a way to segment out people who come a lot, people who only come a few times, and people who only come out once. Discussion ensued about Emil's ability to test these scenarios with his models. The Board of Commissioners will meet with him for a 90-minute work session. Commissioner Congdon asked if Emil could write down a few highlights and explain what the data shows is driving the ticket sales.

Executive Session:

At 4:55 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid, Shillo

Nays: None

At 5:32 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: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid, Shillo

Nays: None

Next meeting is March 16.

Commissioner Burnham moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Reid seconding. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.