

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

March 16
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 March 16, 2026, at 4:02 pm at the Fishers Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, Tom Cashel, David 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: Munnatawket, spring and summer schedules, IBAs
5. Warrant: \$194,729.88
6. Contract Munnatawket Yard Package
7. Professional Services Docko
8. Airfield Lighting Design
9. USPS Contract
10. Race Point Spare Engines
11. Amend HR Merits 2026-026
12. Other: LHW USCG station; Suffolk County audit
13. Executive: Legal and real estate
14. Next scheduled meetings – March 30, 2026, 4pm
15. Adjourn

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Marine Update:

The Munnatawket came back on Tuesday, March 10, and is ready to be back in service. There was a hiccup with the Coast Guard the day it came back, but that's all set. Some maintenance will continue on that until it's back in full service.

The spring schedule was posted online today and physical copies arrive tomorrow. The weekends will increase from four to five trips. The only other change is to the special schedule for Memorial Day weekend. The summer schedule is almost finalized. Geb and Dave both reached out to the city to see if they are doing fireworks but haven't heard back. If they are, we'll put that onto the special schedule for the summer. Last year we had an issue where we ended up cancelling a boat for the Fishers Island School graduation. For this year, we have the graduation date, and we've added it to the special schedule already.

We will have a number of new hires coming through our meetings over the next month or so as we're ramping up hiring for the summer. One applicant came through from SUNY from a connection that Jon made at a conference with career people from SUNY and Mass Maritime. Hopefully more come through from there.

We had four IBAs and two were condemned. They lasted us a long time, but the adhesive was going. The two new ones arrived about two weeks ago and the boom truck is coming this week to install all four back on the boat.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2026 –027

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated March 16, 2026, in the amount of \$194,729.88.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays:

RESOLUTION 2026-028**03.16.2026**TOS Resolution: **#2026-**

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:

SM9710.6.000.000	Medical Insurance Exp	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>

Decrease Expenditures:

SM5710.4.000.100	Utilities - NL	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
	Total	<u>\$1,000.00</u>

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays:

Munnatawket Revised Yard Package

Resolution 2026-029

WHEREAS the MV Munnatawket has completed its biennial haul out at Fairhaven Shipyard Companies, Inc., and passed its Coast Guard Inspection; and

WHEREAS, the Fishers Island Ferry District Board of Commissioners had previously approved the amount of \$211,080.00 including supplemental work items and \$52,770 in contingency charges; and

WHEREAS shipyard supplemental work costs were less and contingency charges were more;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District accepts final charges of **\$166,830.00** for work items and supplemental work and **\$94,360.00** in contingency charges resulting in a cost savings.

RESOLVED, that Management is directed to pay the approved invoiced amounts as submitted by Fairhaven Shipyard Companies, Inc.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

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

Nays:

Discussion

The supplemental work was higher than anticipated, though the baseline was less than anticipated. In total, it was \$2,000 under budget. Commissioner Congdon asked why the work items were lower. This was because some things were cut from the order to allow for the supplemental work. Mostly, we had money allocated for certain things that turned out to still be in good shape; though we were going to do tables, which we cut.

Professional Services

Resolution 2026-030

WHEREAS, DOCKO, dba/ Sound Engineering Associates a marine engineering firm specializing in planning, design, engineering and construction located in Mystic CT has provided professional engineering services to the FIFD for forty-two years and has provided valuable input and advise to the BOC on various pending projects; and

WHEREAS, DOCKO, has presented its rate sheet to the BOC for the provision of professional engineering services for the 2026 term.

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has determined that it would not be in the best interests of the taxpayers of the FIFD to seek alternative proposals or quotations from other engineering firms who do not possess DOCKO's experience and institutional knowledge.

NOW, THEREFORE be it RESOLVED that the BOC waives the requirement of a second quote in Guideline 8 of the FIFD Procurement Policy; and be it further

RESOLVED that the BOC of the FIFD hereby accept the rate sheet of DOCKO for Professional Services for 2026 and authorizes the District Manager to execute the professional services agreement, subject to the approval of District Counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays: None

STANDARD HOURLY RATES
DOCKO

2026 FIFD RATE SCHEDULE POSITION	LABOR CODE	2026 STANDARD HOURLY RATE	2026 FIFD HOURLY RATE
Principal Engineer	PE	\$255.00	\$235.00
Sr. Project Manager	SM	\$255.00	\$235.00
Project Manager	PM	\$234.00	\$214.00
Sr. Structural Engineer	SS	\$224.00	\$204.00
Sr. Coastal Engineer	SC	\$224.00	\$204.00
Structural Engineer	SE	\$203.00	\$183.00
Coastal Engineer	CE	\$203.00	\$183.00
Project Engineer	PR	\$198.00	\$178.00
Architectural Designer	AR	\$193.00	\$173.00
Engineering Tech/CADD	EC	\$193.00	\$170.00
Permitting Technician	PT	\$187.00	\$167.00
Project Administrator	PA	\$172.00	\$150.00
Associate Engineer	AE	\$170.00	\$170.00
Field Technician	FT	\$151.00	\$131.00
Special Inspector	SI	\$151.00	\$131.00
CAD Operator	CO	\$141.00	\$121.00
Administrative	AD	\$94.00	\$94.00

Legal Proceedings: Expert witness / forensic analysis, preparation, deposition, and testimony will be billed at 1.5 times the rates above. Reimbursable expenses incurred in the interest of the project are in addition to the stated fee. They shall include costs such as, but not limited to, travel, mileage, express mail, reproductions (prints, plots, etc....), and shall be billed at cost plus 15%.

Airfield Lighting Design Services

RESOLUTION 2026-031

WHEREAS C&S Engineers is consultant representing the Town of Southold (Town) and Fishers Island Ferry District (FIFD) for the design, construction, administration and observation services for the Fishers Island Elizabeth Field Airport Airfield Lighting, Signage and NAVAID Rehabilitations; and,

WHEREAS, a lump sum contract for \$114,250.00 has been approved by the Town and Ferry District; and

RESOLVED, that Management is directed to execute the contract and any ancillary documents subject to review by District counsel and to pay all amounts when properly invoiced and approved by Management.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays: None

Discussion

We will be paying 5% of this. Commissioner Congdon asked how much Ferry management time a project like this takes, pointing out that the airstrip is owned by the town. Commissioner Burnham countered that the revenue from the airport goes to the Ferry and not to the Town, though Commissioner Cashel further countered that we don't control the airport rates. Discussion ensued, and the Board of Commissioners requested that Geb do a five-year analysis of how much we spend each year on the 5% payments to the 95% FAA-funded projects and to tag what projects those are. Commissioner Burnham reminded the group about the pushback from the aviation community and FAA when we previously considered raising landing rates.

United States Postal Service Contract

RESOLUTION 2026-032

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service is in need of a second party to transport mail between New London and Fishers Island, and

WHEREAS, the Fishers Island Ferry District has previously provided its services as a second-party carrier for USPS mail and has agreed to renew a two-year contract for 2026- 2028;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, subject to review by counsel, that the Board of Commissioners hereby directs and authorizes David McCall to execute the four-year contract and all ancillary documents.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays: None

Discussion:

They offered a 2% increase on the rate, and we countered with a 3% rate, which they accepted. We get paid about \$31,000 per year to deliver the mail across the water, and about \$4,000 of that goes to transporting from the ferry to the post office. There is some language in the terms and conditions about fuel surcharges, so this may need to be reevaluated within the terms of the contract. Commissioner Cashel pointed out that in future, this should account for a CPI each year.

Race Point Spare Engines

RESOLUTION 2025 – 033

WHEREAS the Ferry MV Race Point will have reached the 19,000 hr recommended service life of its two main engines and gears by January 2027; and

WHEREAS the Fishers Island Ferry District has traditionally kept spares engines on hand for emergencies; and

WHEREAS Section 7 of the Fishers Island Ferry District Procurement Policy allows for Sole Source situations

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the bid from Cummins Northeast for \$173,955.00 to supply two new main engines, and GL Power for two Twin Disk MGX5146SC Gear units for 93,800.00 as spare replacements; and be it further

RESOLVED to authorize management to review and authorize change orders up to \$26,700.; the total cost not to exceed \$294,400.00; and It is further

RESOLVED to authorize management to execute contract and ancillary documents for this project after review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Burnham, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Management is recommending that we purchase new engines. The old engines will be kept as backups, which we should have. We need the new engines for next January, as they will be part of the yard package for Race Point. It costs \$80,000 per engine to rebuild old engines.

Commissioner Cashel suggested that we purchase the new ones and spend the money to get the current engines rebuilt and keep them on blocks. That way, they will be ready to go if needed. Jon will put together a proposal for this.

HR/Merits 2026-034**AMEND 2026-026**

Amends Employee ID #32701

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	ST Rate	%
			Current	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	24.52	25.12	2.45%
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

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

Discussion:

One employee was missed from this list. They are included here.

Fuel Surcharge

RESOLUTION 2026-035

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that as the gross delivered fuel price for our vessels has exceeded the budgeted price per gallon, a 5% fuel surcharge will be added to domestic and commercial vehicle and passenger fares effective March 25, 2026. All passenger, all vehicle, and all commercial fares will be increased by a 5% fuel surcharge. This surcharge will be reviewed monthly by the Board.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioner Cashel, Congdon, Burnham, and Reid

Discussion:

On average, twice a month we buy 2,000 gallons of fuel. The price of fuel has gone up. We were paying (and budgeted for) \$2.50/gallon. In early March, the price went up to \$3.71/gallon; the last purchase was \$4.58/gallon. At the end of this month, we will be \$19,200 over budget on fuel. If fuel costs remain at this rate, we will be \$58,000 over budget by the end of June. A 5% surcharge on anticipated revenue from April 1 through the end of June would generate \$53,000. We wouldn't cover our losses. What we did last time was to hold onto the surcharge a couple extra weeks. We would phase the surcharge once fuel prices return to budgeted prices of \$2.50 per gallon. We will implement the surcharge and watch it carefully to eliminate it when the price of fuel comes back down.

For context, the Cross Sound Ferry has had a fuel surcharge since COVID that changes weekly. We can't really do that, but they fluctuate on a regular basis.

Discussion ensued about having something short and sharp, or a small increase that lasts a long time.

There should be a lead line on our website communicating this change and explaining that it's due to the cost of fuel and will be revisited on a monthly basis. Physical posters should also be put up in the reservation offices.

This will be a standing agenda item moving forward that will be revisited on a monthly basis.

Other:

Nate Malinowski informed Dave that there's about half a million dollars of exterior renovation that needs to be done on the Lighthouse Works US Coast Guard Station (the Annex). The windows need to be replaced and the trim needs to be done, as does the cupola. That building gets a lot of weather. Their ten-year lease is up in 2027. They spent \$500,000 in renovation costs initially and have also done some painting and installed a projector. Discussion ensued about selling the building to them, especially with Ferry District retention of the land (and a 100-year lease for the land).

Suffolk County declined our request for a budget review. Geb hasn't gotten a letter about it, but they were fearful that the county looking into town business would be awkward and they don't want to get into that situation. Commissioner Cashel suggested having an accounting firm do this.

Executive Session:

At 5:21 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays: None

At 6:28 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays: None

Next meeting is March 2.

Commissioner Burnham moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Congdon seconding. Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.