

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
WOODS HOLE, MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
AND NANTUCKET STEAMSHIP AUTHORITY**

**The Meeting in Public Session**

**October 23, 2025**

The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority met at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 23, 2025, in the training/community room of the Tisbury Emergency Services Facility, 215 Spring Street, Tisbury, Massachusetts. All five (5) Members were present: Chair James M. Malkin of Dukes County; Vice Chair Peter J. Jeffrey of Falmouth; Secretary Moira E. Tierney of New Bedford; and Members Robert F. Ranney of Nantucket and Robert R. Jones of Barnstable.

Port Council Chair Nathaniel E. Lowell of Nantucket and Secretary Gregory R. Egan were present via Zoom videoconferencing; members John F. Cahill of Tisbury and Joseph E. Sollitto Jr. of Oak Bluffs were present. The following staff members were present: General Manager Robert B. Davis; General Counsel Terence G. Kenneally; Treasurer/Comptroller Mark K. Rozum; Chief Operating Officer Mark H. Amundsen; Communications Director Sean F. Driscoll; Assistant Treasurer Courtney M. Oliveira; Director of Shoreside Operations Alison A. Fletcher; Director of Human Resources Janice L. Kennefick; Director of Information Technologies Stephen M. Colman; and Communications and Marketing Specialist Sheila Corcoran.

Video and Audio Recording of Today's Meeting:

Mr. Malkin announced Mr. Driscoll was making an audio and video recording of the meeting; Louisa Hufstader (representing the *Vineyard Gazette*), and Eunki Seonwoo (representing the *Martha's Vineyard Times* indicated they were making audio recordings of the meeting.

The Chair's Statement Regarding Public Comment:

Mr. Malkin noted that, following the lead of several select boards, public comment will now be limited to three (3) minutes per individual. The Members and staff will not directly respond to comments, and if there are any questions

posed that require a response, that response will be given in writing following the meeting.

Moment of Silence for Robert S. Marshall:

Mr. Davis noted the passing of former Board Member Robert S. Marshall, who was Falmouth's representative to the Board for eleven (11) years. Mr. Marshall was appointed to the Board in January 2003 and represented Falmouth ably and fully until December 2013. During those eleven (11) years an astonishing number of projects or purchases that are still relevant to our daily operations took place, including the construction of the *M/V Island Home* (whom his wife Saralee christened) and *M/V Iyanough*; along with the conversions of the *M/V Katama*, *M/V Gay Head* and the *M/V Sankaty*. He was also a member of the Board for the reconstruction of the Oak Bluffs Terminal, and the purchase of the land, which became the Thomas B. Landers parking facility.

Interruption and Restart of the Meeting:

At 10:05 a.m., the Zoom broadcast of the meeting was restarted due to technical difficulties with the platform. From this point forward in the minutes, all actions of the Board were included in the video recording and broadcast to the public.

Video and Audio Recording of Today's Meeting:

In light of the technical interruption, Mr. Malkin repeated the following announcement. Mr. Malkin announced Mr. Driscoll was making an audio and video recording of the meeting; Louisa Hufstader (representing the *Vineyard Gazette*), Eunki Seonwoo (representing the *Martha's Vineyard Times*), Jason Graziadei (representing the *Nantucket Current*), and Kaie Quigley (representing the *Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror*) indicated they were making audio recordings of the meeting.

The Chair's Statement Regarding Public Comment:

In light of the technical interruption, Mr. Malkin repeated the following announcement. Mr. Malkin noted that, following the lead of several select boards, public comment will now be limited to three (3) minutes per individual. The Members and staff will not directly respond to comments, and if there are

any questions posed that require a response, that response will be given in writing following the meeting.

Minutes:

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Mr. Jeffrey, seconded by Mr. Ranney – to approve the minutes of the Board’s September 16, 2025, meeting in public session.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
<b>Mr. Malkin</b>	<b>35 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Jeffrey</b>	<b>10 %</b>	
<b>Ms. Tierney</b>	<b>10 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Ranney</b>	<b>35 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Jones</b>	<b>10 %</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

Port Council Report:

Mr. Lowell provided an update on the Port Council’s October 14, 2025, meeting. He noted a moment of silence was held for former Board Member Robert S. Marshall. The meeting topics also included the following:

- An update on the *M/V Monomoy* conversion project.
- An update on the *M/V Martha’s Vineyard* dry dock.
- An update on the Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project.
- An update on the reservation system project.
- Proposed revisions to the fall 2026 Operating Schedules.
- The August 2025 business summary.
- The proposed 2025 Operating Budget and rate adjustments, which the Port Council voted to recommend to the Board.
- Recent damage to the propeller blades of the *M/V Barnstable*.
- An update on the crew of the *M/V Island Home*’s rescue efforts during the previous day’s Nor’easter

*M/V Monomoy* status:

Mr. Amundsen noted he was speaking on behalf of Director of Engineering and Maintenance Zach Lawrence, who oversaw overnight repairs to the No. 3

water jet bucket of the *M/V Iyanough* that were completed in time for the 8:15 a.m. departure from Hyannis.

Mr. Amundsen then reviewed the progress of the *M/V Monomoy* conversion at Alabama Shipyard. Recent milestones include the vessel being returned to the water for the rest of the conversion project; completion of the anchor windlass; installation of the bridge console; installation of coatings on the freight deck; and installation of components on the passenger space. He noted the propeller shaft installation, hull blasting, hull painting, vessel undocking, and stability test are complete, and the sea trials are pending the review by the Marine Safety Center, which is not in operation due to the federal government shutdown.

Mr. Malkin asked if, given what has been learned from the speed of the vessel and its loading based on the performance of the *M/V Aquinnah* and *M/V Barnstable*. Mr. Amundsen said the speed is as advertised at approximately 12.3 to 12.5 knots. The effectiveness of the skeg extension on the *M/V Monomoy* will be evaluated, but it is hoped that it will help the vessel pick up some speed as necessary, such as during days with rough weather. A learning curve will continue with the loading of the vessels, but terminal and vessel personnel are improving performance in that regard with the vessels that are in service. Mr. Malkin asked if Mr. Amundsen was comfortable with the speeds of the current vessels, and he said he was comfortable. He noted the Authority has received a lot of support from Hornbeck Offshore LLC in this study, and further skeg extensions or other modifications to the vessels may yet be in order.

*M/V Martha's Vineyard* Dry Dock Status:

Mr. Amundsen provided an update on the *M/V Martha's Vineyard* dry dock at Thames Shipyard in New London, Connecticut. Highlights of the project include propeller refurbishment, steel repairs to the freight deck and galley deck, hull coatings, bow thruster maintenance, piping renewals, and pump and motor overhauls. The total project cost, including credits and change orders, now stands at \$1,503,679.

Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project:

Mr. Davis shared an update on the Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project. Recent milestones at the utility building include installation of ceiling panels and lighting; installation of locker room seating; generator connections; rerouting of site power; the application of epoxy to the first-floor concrete floor; and installation of stair treads. At the terminal building, milestones included

painting of steel posts and beams; framing of interior walls; testing of geothermal wells; and the continued installation of stone siding. To date, 294 eNews email updates have been sent regarding the projects.

Mr. Jeffrey asked the status of the site circulation survey that had been requested. Mr. Davis said a firm had been engaged and some background information had been provided, which is now under review.

Mr. Jeffrey noted he had heard recent complaints from neighbors about late-evening activity; Mr. Davis said Eversource was working on the electrical service switchover, and the timing of that work was out of the control of the Authority. The work was completed the day prior to the meeting.

#### Reservation System Replacement Project:

Mr. Amundsen provided an update on the Reservation System Replacement Project. E-Dea was recently on site for two (2) weeks and did site visits to the Authority's locations and held in-depth meetings on pricing adjustments, booking flows, and integrations with financial and payment systems. Overall, the meetings were helpful, he said, and Authority staff and E-Dea will soon move into the solution design phase of the project. He noted that open houses are to be held in November to get public input on the project.

#### 2026 Operating Schedule Changes:

Ms. Fletcher then presented proposed revisions to the 2026 Operating Schedules. She noted staff had identified that the approved schedule was a reduction of service during the late summer schedules compared to the 2025 schedules. Staff is now proposing that the 2026 Late Summer Operating schedules mirror the 2025 schedules by triple-crewing the *M/V Monomoy* on the Vineyard route and running the *M/V Barnstable* with two (2) single crews Monday–Friday on the Nantucket route.

Mr. Davis said, since it is a change in the number of trips, staff advertised the changes for public comment and will bring the matter back to the Port Council and Board. Mr. Jeffrey asked if that could trigger another public hearing, and Mr. Kenneally said yes, but only with respect to these additional trips.

Ms. Tierney asked how this was discovered; Ms. Fletcher said it was due to a review of the schedule after its approval by the Board. Mr. Davis added that

the accounting department realized the trips were in the budget but not reflected in the schedule.

Additional Service License Amendment for Seastreak LLC:

Mr. Davis said Seastreak's request for additional service for the Nantucket Christmas Stroll had been withdrawn after he noted it had already been approved. He further noted Seastreak indicated it would not provide the extra Thanksgiving service or other holiday service that had been approved in its license request.

Ms. Tierney asked if there was a requirement that the licensed service be provided. Mr. Davis said the Board may want to consider such a provision moving forward, as the Board considers the demand for the service as part of its evaluation of the request. If a licensed carrier is proposing a public service and then decides not to provide it, the Board and Port Council may wish to consider how to respond to that. Mr. Kenneally clarified the current license agreements and license policy do not include any penalty, and it would have to be reviewed for potential changes.

Mr. Malkin said he shared Ms. Tierney's concern, noting that for an advertised service to be dropped is "problematic."

Mr. Jeffrey said he agreed from the points of view of public convenience and necessity, in addition to financial effects to the Authority and port towns.

Mr. Davis said he would notify Seastreak of these concerns, and Ms. Tierney said she would like to be involved in those discussions.

License Request from Helen H Offshore Fishing Corp.:

Mr. Kenneally said the Authority had received an inquiry about passenger service from Oak Bluffs to Nantucket on October 25, 2025, for sporting events between the islands. The Authority could not accommodate the request and the requestor was referred to licensed carriers for assistance, which also could not provide the service. Helen H Offshore Fishing Corp. was able to accommodate and submitted a request for a one-day license. Mr. Kenneally said there was not much concern about the request, and a nominal \$2.00 per passenger license fee was being proposed.

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Jeffrey – to authorize the general manager to enter into a license agreement with Helen H Offshore Fishing Corp., as proposed in Staff Summary #GM-805, dated October 22, 2025.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mr. Malkin	35 %	
Mr. Jeffrey	10 %	
Ms. Tierney	10 %	
Mr. Ranney	35 %	
Mr. Jones	<u>10 %</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

Results of Operations:

Mr. Rozum reviewed the results of the August 2025 business summary via a PowerPoint presentation, which showed the Authority carried more passengers (up 5.8%), more vehicles under twenty (20) feet (up 0.9%) and fewer freight trucks over twenty (20) feet (down 3.9%) than in the same month in 2024. Year-to-date figures show the Authority has carried more passengers (up 2.2%), more vehicles under twenty (20) feet (up 0.6%) and fewer freight trucks over twenty (20) feet (down 0.4%) compared to the same time period in 2024.

During the month of August 2025, the Authority's vessels were budgeted to make a combined 2,580 trips, of which two (2) were canceled for mechanical reasons on the Martha's Vineyard route and four (4) were canceled for mechanical reasons on the Nantucket route, he said. Year-to-date, mechanical cancellations are 0.43% of trips, lower than the 0.83% of trips at the same point in 2024.

In August 2025, the Authority's operating revenue was approximately \$22,626,000, and its operating expenses were approximately \$11,859,000, that, when combined with other income and income deductions, resulted in a net operating income of \$11,580,000, about \$1,258,000 more than budgeted, he said. Year-to-date, the Authority has a net operating gain of \$14,278,000, about \$355,000 more than budgeted.

Preliminary traffic data for September 2025 shows that the Authority carried essentially the same number of passengers and fewer vehicles of all sizes (down 1.0%) than the same month in 2024, he said. He further noted preliminary

results from October show significant decreases due to the storm over Columbus Day weekend.

Mr. Malkin noted the report showed the importance of passengers to the Authority's financial performance and that the Authority competes for those travelers.

Ms. Tierney asked if an additional column could be added to show the budget performance versus the prior year. Mr. Rozum said that was included in the monthly business summary document and could easily be added to the presentation.

Proposed Draft of the 2026 Operating Budget:

Mr. Rozum and Ms. Oliveira presented the proposed 2026 Operating Budget. Ms. Oliveira noted that the baseline for revenues is the actual traffic statistics from August 2024-July 2025 and the operating expenses are based on the approved 2026 Operating Schedule. Additionally, the budget reflects the *M/V Monomoy* coming online and the reservation system launching in the fourth quarter.

In 2026, the projected operating revenues are \$152,742,907 and the projected operating expenses are \$162,081,970 that, when combined with other income and expenses, results in a net income from operations of \$2,595,166, Ms. Oliveira said.

Significant operating expense changes include vessel maintenance (up \$2,882,760), payroll (up \$2,708,372), depreciation (up \$2,219,537), and terminal maintenance (up \$1,913,950). Vessel fuel oil costs are projected to be down \$295,782, she said. Ms. Oliveira reviewed specifics of the maintenance budgets, noting that thirty-two percent (32%) of the vessel maintenance budget was for five (5) dry dockings and fifty-four percent (54%) of the landside maintenance was for repairs to dolphins and docks.

Ms. Oliveira said the total training and crewing expenses of \$1,634,882 include new pilot and captain training; vessel familiarization training; cyber security and additional IT training, and the biannual Training and Development Expo.

Ms. Oliveira reviewed the advertising budgets over the last five (5) years, as well as the proposed breakdown of the 2026 budget. As part of the Strategic Plan, \$60,000 is allocated toward community events as part of the budget, she



said. Forty-one percent (41%) is allocated to digital advertising, she said, and noted the budget is aimed at increasing passenger traffic, which can be accommodated with no additional costs to the Authority. Approximately seventy percent (70%) of the passenger revenue is collected between June and September, which is when the advertising campaigns run.

Positive variations in projected operating revenue are \$1,333,214 in passenger revenue and \$765,650 in freight revenue, while negative variations are a drop of \$1,732,583 in automobile revenue, \$1,059,001 in rent revenue, and \$33,929 in parking revenue, she said.

Mr. Rozum noted that grant revenue income was expected to increase by \$3.9 million, covering costs related to vessel dry docks, slip and pier repairs in Vineyard Haven, transfer bridge repairs in Fairhaven, and vessel engine and machinery parts.

Mr. Rozum noted several operational benefits from last year's budget, namely:

- increased preventative vessel maintenance investments
- continued investment in training costs
- settled all union contracts
- forty-nine percent (49%) decrease in mechanical trip cancellations compared to 2024
- sixty-three percent (63%) decrease in crewing and schedule trip cancellations compared to 2024
- new reservation system expected to go live in 4th quarter 2026

Mr. Rozum noted three (3) budget open houses had been held, and he thanked those who attended as well as the staff who supported the effort.

Mr. Jeffrey thanked Ms. Oliveira and Mr. Rozum for the detailed presentation. He asked what the Authority's risk was in terms of federal grants being stalled and how much of a deficit it would incur should that happen. Mr. Rozum said federal funds have continued to be received. The grants are formula funds so are less discretionary than other programs. Should none of them be received, the Authority would then basically break even for the year, which would affect transfers to the Replacement Fund and affect the availability of funding for capital projects.

Mr. Jeffrey asked where cuts could be made if necessary. Mr. Rozum said the core mission is service to the islands, and many of those essential trips are important to the islanders but are not profitable. Cuts to the unprofitable months

and personnel to serve those trips would have a detrimental effect on the Authority's manning progress.

Mr. Jeffrey asked what the audience was for each segment of the Authority's advertising budget. Mr. Driscoll said all the various advertising methods were aimed at prospective day-trippers in the Cape and Boston markets. The Authority's spending in the greater New England and New York markets has been greatly reduced over the years. While some of the advertising methods are harder to track, the Authority's digital campaigns, including search ads and search engine optimization, have performed well. With the new reservation system, Mr. Driscoll said specific discount codes can be offered to help track the effectiveness of different methods. He added that the billboard on Interstate 93 is a highly visible location that the Authority has used for a number of years, and it has always advertised the high-speed ferry service.

Mr. Jones noted the best way to judge the effectiveness of advertising was to cut advertising spending. He noted that in his career he could often see a boost when advertising was done.

Mr. Malkin said he would like a review next year on the public relations and advertising spending and if the Authority's plan is flexible and adaptable.

Mr. Rozum noted that the Port Council had voted to recommend approval of the budget as presented.

Mr. Malkin said COVID showed that cutting service is how the Authority cuts its spending, and cutting service during the losing months would have disastrous effects on the islands.

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Mr. Jeffrey, seconded by Mr. Ranney – to approve the 2026 Operating Budget, as proposed in Staff Summary #A-719, dated October 21, 2025.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mr. Malkin	35 %	
Mr. Jeffrey	10 %	
Ms. Tierney	10 %	
Mr. Ranney	35 %	
Mr. Jones	<u>10 %</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

Ms. Tierney was not present for the vote but registered her affirmative vote upon returning to the meeting.

Proposed Draft of the 2026 Rate Adjustments:

Mr. Rozum then reviewed the proposed 2026 rate adjustments. After reviewing increases in maintenance, training, and IT expenses, he said the total rate adjustment revenue is \$7,436,890, of which \$4,397,962 will come from the Vineyard route and \$3,038,928 will come from the Nantucket route.

The proposed fare adjustments by category are as follows:

▪ Passenger fares	\$1,810,043
▪ Excursion rates	\$489,559
▪ Standard fare vehicles	\$1,797,955
▪ Vehicles over 20' in length	\$1,991,234
▪ Parking – Permits & Daily Fee	\$1,269,457
▪ Miscellaneous	\$78,642

The proposed Vineyard route adjustments are as follows:

<b>Rate</b>	<b>Proposed Adjustment</b>	<b>Additional Revenue</b>
Standard fare vehicles under 20' in length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$3.50-\$5.50: 1/1- 5/14 and 11/1-12/31</li> <li>▪ \$6.00: 9/15-10/31</li> <li>▪ \$6.00 Mon-Thurs &amp; \$8.00 Fri-Sun: 5/15-9/14</li> <li>▪ \$55: Auto 10-ride coupon book</li> </ul>	\$1,198,350
Excursion Fare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1.75: 1/1-5/14 and 9/15-12/31 per segment</li> <li>▪ \$2.75: 5/15-9/14 per segment</li> </ul>	\$350,026
Freight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5.5% increase</li> </ul>	\$866,449
Passengers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$0.50 one-way adult</li> <li>▪ \$0.25 one-way child/senior</li> <li>▪ \$4.50 per 10-ride adult book</li> <li>▪ \$2.75 per 10-ride child/senior book</li> <li>▪ \$9.25 per 46-ride book</li> </ul>	\$1,078,277
Daily Fee Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$5.00 per day from 1/1 - 3/31 &amp; 11/1 - 12/31</li> <li>▪ \$8.00 per day from 4/1 - 5/14 &amp; 9/15 - 10/31</li> </ul>	\$760,415
Parking Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$200 Woods Hole Lot</li> <li>▪ \$50 Palmer Ave. Lot</li> </ul>	\$129,100

The proposed Nantucket rate adjustments are as follows:

<b>Rate</b>	<b>Proposed Adjustment</b>	<b>Additional Revenue</b>
Standard fare vehicles under 20' in length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$10 &amp; \$15: 1/1-5/14 and 11/1-12/31</li> <li>▪ \$15: Monday-Thursday and \$20 Friday-Sunday 5/15-9/14</li> <li>▪ \$15: 9/15-10/31</li> <li>▪ \$80: auto 6-ride coupon book</li> </ul>	\$599,605
Excursion fare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$4.50: 1/1-5/14 and 9/15-12/31 per segment</li> <li>▪ \$6.25: 5/15-9/14 per segment</li> </ul>	\$139,533
Vehicles 20' and over in length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5.5% increase</li> </ul>	\$1,124,785
Passengers – High Speed Ferry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$2 one-way adult/\$3 same-day round-trip adult</li> <li>▪ \$1 one-way child/\$2 same-day round-trip child</li> <li>▪ \$1 one-way senior/\$2.50 same-day round-trip senior</li> <li>▪ \$8-\$16 per 10-ride book</li> </ul>	\$496,289
Passengers – Conventional Ferry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1 one-way adult</li> <li>▪ \$0.50 one-way child and senior</li> <li>▪ \$8 per 10-ride adult book</li> <li>▪ \$5 per 10-ride child/senior book</li> </ul>	\$235,478
Daily Fee Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$4.00-\$7.00 per calendar day</li> </ul>	\$363,042
Parking Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$75.00 Lewis Bay</li> <li>▪ \$50.00 Yarmouth Road</li> </ul>	\$16,900

Mr. Rozum reviewed usage of excursion rate fares on both routes, which he noted has been a topic of much discussion through the process. He said excursion fare travel has been an increasing percentage of travel while not keeping up with the costs of service. He had been asked for a review of the number of Excursion Program accounts, and said that, in 2024, 9,496 accounts had excursion fare status on the Vineyard and 4,346 had the status on Nantucket, both of which are up considerably from 2019, but the number of excursion reservations per account has stayed remarkably consistent, meaning people are not traveling more but there are more people traveling on the program.

Mr. Rozum reviewed excursion rate alternatives and said staff is recommending a three-tier flat five percent (5%) increase that will have rate timeframes of January-March for the lowest cost, then April to May 31 and September-December for the mid-tier rates, and the highest rates from June to August. With the new reservation system, the program can further be adjusted to offer discounts based on the number of trips taken per customer.

Mr. Rozum noted staff had reviewed impacts to the budget and rates of potential schedule changes, evaluated the continuation of the RD-99 program, and analyzed the effects of the new reservation system. Mr. Rozum recommended that the RD-99 program pilot will be continued and evaluated monthly and can be absorbed into the budget provided there are no unexpected price spikes. Mr. Amundsen noted the product had performed well and he thought it would be “the wave of the future” although the availability of the product may be challenged due to high demand as its adoption continues.

Mr. Jeffrey noted that the excursion rates needed to be adjusted, and that if they had kept pace with inflation the rate would be \$7 higher than 2021. He said he is open to the three-tier proposal before the Board and, while he thinks the Authority is moving slowly on changes, he hopes the new reservation system will be able to fine tune the program.

Mr. Malkin said the concept of a discount based on the number of times an individual travels per year needs to be looked at, as does the medical program. Mr. Rozum noted medical travel would be excluded from that category.

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Mr. Jeffrey, seconded by Mr. Ranney – to adopt the 2026 rate adjustments, as proposed in Staff Summary #A-720, dated October 21.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mr. Malkin	35 %	
Mr. Jeffrey	10 %	
Ms. Tierney	10 %	
Mr. Ranney	35 %	
Mr. Jones	<u>10 %</u>	<u>      </u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Rozum and Ms. Oliveira for their work on the budget and rate adjustments.

Contract No. 10-2025,  
Dry Dock and Overhaul Services for the *M/V Nantucket*:

The *M/V Nantucket* is scheduled to enter shipyard availability from February 25, 2026, to March 29, 2026, to undergo a required U.S. Coast Guard hull exam; rudder, propeller and shaft maintenance; bow thruster maintenance; and coating maintenance on underwater and superstructure areas, Mr. Davis said.

The 2026 Operating Budget estimate for the work, including the above-mentioned items, was \$1,231,450. The discrepancies between the amounts budgeted and the bid results was \$328,433; the most significant discrepancies included the gray water tank replacement of \$85,915 and epoxy floor covering repairs of \$144,840, which were not included in the operating budget.

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ranney – to authorize the general manager to award Contract No. 10-2025, Dry Dock and Overhaul Services for the *M/V Nantucket*, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, Thames Shipyard and Repair Company of New London, Connecticut, for a total contract price of \$1,559,883, as proposed in Staff Summary #ENG-2025-10, dated October 17, 2025.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mr. Malkin	35 %	
Mr. Jeffrey	10 %	
Ms. Tierney	10 %	
Mr. Ranney	35 %	
Mr. Jones	<u>10 %</u>	<u>      </u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

Main Engine Overhaul Services for the *M/V Eagle*:

Mr. Davis said the Authority intends to purchase the labor and expenses required for the overhaul of the two (2) main engines Model EMD 12-645-E6, onboard the *M/V Eagle*. Work is to be conducted during the vessel's 2025 repair period between November 24, 2025, and January 10, 2026. The 2025 Operating Budget estimate was \$221,000.

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ranney – to authorize the general manager to purchase the labor and expenses required for the overhaul of the two (2) main engines (port and starboard) model EMD 12-645-E6 from Marine Systems Inc. of Chesapeake, Virginia, for a total price of \$239,072.54, as proposed in Staff Summary #ENG-2025-11, dated October 17, 2025.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
<b>Mr. Malkin</b>	<b>35 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Jeffrey</b>	<b>10 %</b>	
<b>Ms. Tierney</b>	<b>10 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Ranney</b>	<b>35 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Jones</b>	<b>10 %</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

General Manager Search Committee Update:

Mr. Malkin provided an update on the General Manager Search Committee. He said the committee conducted a very extensive search and has been in the process of doing deep due diligence on the remaining candidates and is preparing to bring the names of at least two (2) recommended candidates to the Board for their evaluation and selection. He asked the Members to think of the questions they will want to ask the candidates, and he expects each candidate to be interviewed for one and a half (1.5) hours.

Mr. Kenneally added that each session would be ninety (90) minutes with a break for lunch, and staff was looking for a venue in Falmouth to accommodate the meeting.

Mr. Jones asked what will happen after the board conducts its review, and Mr. Kenneally said it will be up to the board as to how to proceed. It could decide to vote immediately or schedule a subsequent meeting.

Ms. Tierney asked if the Members would receive the resumes and applications of the candidates ahead of the meeting; Mr. Kenneally said they would be provided and that there was quite a lot of material on the prospective finalists for the Members to review.



IT Executive Steering Committee Update:

Mr. Jeffrey provided an update on the IT Executive Steering Committee. He said the committee has two (2) main focuses in the near future: the development of new business rules and standard operating procedures in response to the new reservation system, and the procurement plan that will be necessary to execute the project.

Old and New Business:

Mr. Davis noted that Veterans Day is Tuesday, November 11, 2025, and the Authority will again be offering free passenger tickets to any veterans or active-duty service members per the policy adopted by the Board.

Public Comment:

Cameron Naron noted that he understood some islander usage of the excursion rates are “astronomical” and that seems to be an issue of enforcement, not an issue that needs to be baked into the reservation system. He also added that he received a complimentary Veterans Day ticket in 2024 and was challenged when trying to board the boat. He said an educational component is necessary for employees about the program.

Jonathan Chatinover noted that rent revenue was down in the 2026 budget and asked why that was, and if the answer had to be provided in writing, when would that be done.

Via Zoom, Nat Trumbull said he was unclear on how the RD-99 fuel will be paid for and if it was part of the existing budget or would need monthly approval.

Via Zoom, Beth O'Connor said she felt there was a concerted effort to present benefits to the advertising program when that was a place that could have been cut to offset increases to the excursion rate. She said she does not think the cost of advertising to get people to make a last-minute day trip via the billboard, TV, and radio is a worthwhile expense. She encouraged the Board to have a committee dedicated to understanding the advertising budget better.

At 12:04 p.m., Mr. Malkin said he would entertain a motion to move into executive session to discuss and approve the minutes of the Authority's meetings on July 15, 2025, and August 5, 2025, and to review and discuss the Authority's

strategies with respect to the exchange, lease, or value of real estate and its contract negotiations with non-union personnel because a public discussion of these matters may have a detrimental effect on the Authority's negotiating and bargaining positions. These matters include:

- Consideration of the exchange, lease or value of the following properties:
  - 0 Thomas B. Landers Road, Falmouth, Massachusetts, and
  - 0 Research Road, Falmouth Massachusetts, and
- The Authority's employment contract with its general manager, Robert B. Davis.

The public disclosure of any more information with respect to these matters would compromise the purposes for which the executive session is being called.

After the conclusion of the executive session, the Board will reconvene in public.

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Ms. Tierney, seconded by Mr. Ranney – to go into executive session to discuss and approve the minutes of the Authority's meetings on July 15, 2025, and August 5, 2025, and to review and discuss the Authority's strategies with respect to the exchange, lease, or value of real estate and its contract negotiations with non-union personnel.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mr. Malkin	35 %	
Mr. Jeffrey	10 %	
Ms. Tierney	10 %	
Mr. Ranney	35 %	
Mr. Jones	10 %	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

The Board reconvenes:

At 12:28 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session. All five (5) Members were present: Chair James M. Malkin of Dukes County; Vice Chair Peter J. Jeffrey of Falmouth; Secretary Moira E. Tierney of New Bedford; and Members Robert F. Ranney of Nantucket and Robert R. Jones of Barnstable.

The following staff members were present: General Manager Robert B. Davis; General Counsel Terence G. Kenneally; Treasurer/Comptroller Mark K. Rozum; Communications Director Sean F. Driscoll; and Director of Human Resources Janice L. Kennefick.

Video and Audio Recording of Today's Meeting:

Mr. Malkin announced Mr. Driscoll was making an audio and video recording of the meeting; Louisa Hufstader (representing the *Vineyard Gazette*), Eunki Seonwoo (representing the *Martha's Vineyard Times*) and Jason Graziadei (representing the *Nantucket Current*) indicated they were making audio recordings of the meeting.

The Authority's Employment Contract with  
General Manager Robert B. Davis:

Mr. Kenneally announced that Mr. Davis had agreed to modify the date in his advisory role contract at the end of his tenure as general manager to December 31, 2025, due to the time needed to hire and negotiate a contract with his successor.

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Mr. Ranney, seconded  
by Mr. Jeffrey – to approve the amendment to Mr. Davis's  
contract as discussed.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
<b>Mr. Malkin</b>	<b>35 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Jeffrey</b>	<b>10 %</b>	
<b>Ms. Tierney</b>	<b>10 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Ranney</b>	<b>35 %</b>	
<b>Mr. Jones</b>	<b>10 %</b>	<b>_____</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

At 12:31 p.m., Mr. Malkin asked for a motion to adjourn.

**IT WAS VOTED – upon a motion by Mr. Jeffrey, seconded by Mr. Ranney – to adjourn the meeting.**

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mr. Malkin	35 %	
Mr. Jeffrey	10 %	
Ms. Tierney	10 %	
Mr. Ranney	35 %	
Mr. Jones	<u>10 %</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

A TRUE RECORD

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MOIRA E. TIERNEY, Board Secretary

**Documents and Exhibits Used at the**  
**October 23, 2025, Meeting in Public Session of the Board of the**  
**Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority**

1. October 23, 2025, Meeting Agenda, posted October 21, 2025 (revised October 22, 2025).
2. Video and audio recording announcement.
3. Minutes of the September 16, 2025, meeting in public session (draft).
4. Minutes of the October 14, 2025, Port Council meeting (draft dated October 16, 2025).
5. Presentation, *M/V Monomoy* conversion at Alabama Shipyard, dated October 23, 2025.
6. Presentation, *M/V Martha's Vineyard* Dry Dock at Thames Shipyard, dated October 23, 2025.
7. Presentation, Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project, dated October 22, 2025.
8. Staff Summary #SO-2025-10, Revised Late Summer 2026 Operating Schedules for the Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Routes, dated October 15, 2025.
9. Staff Summary #GM-805, Request for One (1) Day License Agreement with Helen H Offshore Fishing Company, dated October 22, 2025.
10. August 2025 Business Summary.
11. Presentation, August 2025 Business Summary, dated October 23, 2025.
12. Staff Summary #A-719, Proposed 2026 Operating Budget, dated October 21, 2025.
13. Presentation, 2026 Proposed Operating Budget, dated October 21, 2025.
14. Staff Summary #A-720, Proposed 2026 Rate Adjustments, dated October 21, 2025.
15. Presentation, 2026 Proposed Rate Adjustments, dated October 21, 2025.
16. Staff Summary #ENG-2025-10, Contract No. 10-2025, Dry Dock and Overhaul Services for *M/V Nantucket*, dated October 17, 2025.

17. Staff Summary #ENG-2025-11, Purchase Order 0044685 for Labor for Overhaul Services of the *M/V Eagle* Main Engines (EMD 12-645-E6), dated October 17, 2025.
18. Statement to be read prior to going into executive session.