

MINUTES
of the
80th Annual Meeting
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
September 19, 2009

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

The Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District ("QCBFD") Moderator, Vince Reppucci, called the Annual Meeting to order on September 19, 2009, at 10:21 a.m. at the Quonochontaug Grange on Route 1 in Charlestown, Rhode Island. The agenda for the meeting is attached as Exhibit X.

The Moderator asked the clerk, Dede DePatie Consoli, if a quorum was present under the QCBFD By-Laws and whether the meeting was in compliance with the laws of the State of Rhode Island. The Clerk responded yes. The Moderator explained that a quorum exists if QCBFD voters representing 30% of the fire district's lots are represented at the meeting.

The Moderator then led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator reminded those present that QCBFD is a municipality and not an association. He also stated that any new motions must be presented in writing to the Clerk, seconded and discussed. Under Section 8 of Article 3 of the By-Laws, any such new motion must be passed by 65% of those voting at the meeting. Other motions may be passed by a simple majority.

A moment of silence was observed for the following QCBFD residents who passed away this year:

Ray McAndrew
Vinnny Lanna

The Moderator then recognized the many volunteers who work tirelessly to make QCBFD function and prosper. He noted that some deserve special recognition for outstanding service. Bill Meyer will retire as the Public Works Commissioner. Dede Consoli will retire as the Clerk. Jim Blair will retire as the Tennis & Golf Commissioner. The Moderator also recognized the major accomplishment of the completion of the new water system upgrade under the exceptional tutelage of Bill Meyer. A round of applause followed.

The Moderator then reported that a committee meeting with Dunn's Corner Fire Department would follow QCBFD's Annual Meeting in order for QCBFD to continue its negotiations for a new fire protection contract.

II. Notification of Annual Meeting and Approval of Minutes from the 2008 QCBFD Annual Meeting:

A MOTION was made to approve the Minutes from the 2008 QCBFD Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. Committee Reports: Each QCBFD Commissioner then gave a summary of his/her committee's work over the past year. Each committee report is included as an attachment to these minutes. Any additional discussion of note is detailed below, within the body of these minutes.

A. Finance – Joe DeMaio: See attached Exhibit A. Brad Gorham questioned why QCBFD has \$30,000 budgeted for charter revisions. A discussion ensued on the potential issue of charter revisions, legal costs and lobbying expenses. The Moderator explained that if the funds are not needed, they will not be used.

A MOTION was made to approve the 2010 Budget, including a 2.5% tax increase, as approved by the Finance and Budget Committee and by the Board of Governors. Specifically, QCBFD voters were asked to approve the 2010 Budget, including a total tax of not less than \$225,000 and not more than \$232,500. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Pat Wildman, Treasurer, certified Absentee Ballot votes of 74 “yes” votes and 9 “no” votes.

B. Long Range Planning – Stephen Long:

Steve thanked the Long Range Planning Committee members for their hard work. Steve reported on:

1. Overhead Utilities/Underground Lines: The committee has researched the cost of installing underground electrical utility lines. The costs are \$190-\$200/linear foot with a total of 15,000 linear feet. So, because of a prohibitive estimated cost of \$2.8 - \$4.3 million, QCBFD will not be proceeding with this project at this point.
2. Fresh Pond: Chris Getman has worked on a plan to clean up Fresh Pond and the committee will continue to work on this.
3. Charter Revisions: The committee has reviewed the Charter and has begun the process of analyzing which aspects of the Charter are in need of revision.

Several questions were then raised by QCBFD residents. Tom DePatie inquired as to the water system upgrade. Steven Long answered by explaining that the total cost of the water project upgrade was \$250,000 and that we have borrowed \$175,000 to

fund the upgrade. A discussion also took place as to whether or not QCBFD will chlorinate its water supply in the future. The Moderator stated that our water system is currently in compliance. Tom Farrell pointed out that QCBFD's utility lines are old and asked whether National Grid has checked the safety of these old wires. John Rooney asked a question concerning a transfer tax. Steve Long reported that his committee is researching the issue.

C. Real Estate – Tom Frost:

1. Tom Frost reported that QCBFD is currently working with East Beach on protecting QCBFD's easements to its water system.
2. The digital mapping project is at the end of Phase I. Phase II is expected to begin this Fall (2009).
3. Tom Frost thanked his committee members for all their work over the past year. Roy Jacobsen asked whether QCBFD has a full set of surveys for the property contained within QCBFD. Tom Frost answered that we do not currently have a full set of surveys.

D. Public Works – Bill Meyer: See attached Exhibit B. Bill Meyer read the attached Public Works report and ended by thanking his committee members and Vinny Reppucci, Moderator, for all their hard work. He then turned over his staff to George Prior, the incoming Commissioner of Public Works. Several questions/comments were then made by residents:

1. Roger Schumacher asked a question concerning the two pumps of the new water system.
2. Wally Kelly strongly recommended that residents install a below-grade water shut off in their homes.
3. Irene Morello asked why QCBFD continues to have an iron problem in its well.

E. Civic Improvement – Vinny Reppucci for Peter Rettig: See attached Exhibit C. In Peter Rettig's absence, Moderator Vinny Reppucci read the Civic Improvement report.

F. Police Protection – Ron Ruel: See attached Exhibit D. Ron Ruel read the attached Police Protection report. Kate Thornton questioned whether there should be a backup person for QCBFD residents to call if the Moderator is unavailable.

G. Beach & Dunes – Carrie Gilpin: See attached Exhibit E. Carrie Gilpin read the attached report.

H. Tennis & Golf – Joe DeMaio for Jim Blair: See attached Exhibit F. In Jim Blair’s absence, Joe DeMaio read the attached report.

I. Ballfield & Playground – Vinny Reppucci for Mark McEnroe: See attached Exhibit G. In Mark McEnroe’s absence, Vinny Reppucci read the attached report. Kate Waterman questioned the proper rules of respect for the American flag.

J. Special Events – Barbara Ruel: See attached Exhibit H. Barbara Ruel read the attached report.

K. Boating – Ted Gilpin: Ted Gilpin read his 2009 Boating report, which included the following highlights:

1. the committee sold 96 boat stickers;
2. the tide clock is set to the breachway;
3. the dock is in great shape;
4. QCBFD will start removing boats with expired stickers from the boat launch in the next few months;
5. thank you to the committee, especially Brewster, a real fixture at the boat launch, and Lonnie, our Harbor Master.

L. Nominating Committee – Diane McEnroe: See attached Exhibit I. Diane McEnroe read the attached report. See attached slate of QCBFD Board of Governors and Commissioners (Exhibit J).

A MOTION was made to approve the slate of the Board of Governors and Commissioners for the 2009-2010 year, as recommended by the Nominating Committee (see attached Exhibit J). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Pat Wildman, Treasurer, certified Absentee Ballot votes of 82 “yes” votes and 0 “no” votes.

I. OLD BUSINESS – Vinny Reppucci, Moderator:

A. Traffic/Speed Bumps: Vinny reported on the ongoing efforts to slow the traffic on QCBFD roads and led a discussion on the pros and cons of installing speed bumps at each intersection.

B. Dunn’s Corner Fire District Contract Update: Vinny Reppucci explained that QCBFD had received a proposal from the Dunn’s Corner Fire Department (“Dunn’s Fire”) last year that we felt positive about. It is QCBFD’s desire to move away from a property assessment method. Dunn’s Fire proposed a percentage of their budget method, which we were happy with, but Dunn’s Fire later retracted its offer. Weekapaug Fire District pulled out of Dunn’s Fire. QCBFD then received a fire contract proposal which included a 17% rate increase. QCBFD is not happy with this new proposal. The proposal QCBFD received was for \$70,500. QCBFD has been

negotiating with Dunn's Fire, but there has been no movement off the \$70,500 base. Vinny also reported that both Shelter Harbor and Shady Harbor had renewed their contracts with Dunn's Fire. QCBFD offered Dunn's Fire \$60,000, which has not been accepted. At this point, QCBFD is on a monthly payment plan. We have committed to pay them, on a monthly basis, what Shelter Harbor pays them, which is approximately \$40,000 per year. Vinny then recognized that several representatives from Dunn's Fire were present in the room and Vinny offered Dunn's Fire a chance to speak. Dunn's Fire declined to speak and a representative stated that they were present only to answer questions.

Several questions and comments were then asked and made:

Tom Farrell questioned why Dunn's Fire personnel were in the room. John Birk commented that it was his opinion that the QCBFD should let the committee handle the negotiations. Tom DePatie questioned the number of homes QCBFD has as compared to Shelter Harbor. Roy Jacobsen questioned whether QCBFD should research the Charlestown Fire Department as our fire protection service provider.

II. NEW BUSINESS – Vinny Reppucci, Moderator:

A MOTION was made to install three new pieces of playground equipment, to be paid for by private donation, on the existing "Annie's Playground" by the QCBFD ballfield, which will require additional brush clearing to maintain a minimum nine-foot buffer of either existing or new landscape plantings between the QCBFD property and the adjacent property. The motion was seconded and then opened for discussion. The motion was voted on and passed by a vote of 161 "yes" votes and 85 "no" votes, including Absentee Ballot votes as detailed below. Pat Wildman, Treasurer, certified Absentee Ballot votes of 41 "yes" votes and 43 "no" votes.

A summary of the discussion on the playground expansion motion (prior to the vote) is detailed below:

A. Dick DePatie: Dick presented the "neighborhood committee's" position against expansion of the playground. Dick listed five reasons why his group is opposed to expansion of the playground:

1. the original intent of playground was to honor Diane Gorham;
2. the new equipment is questionable in terms of safety;
3. the new equipment will attract older children who will crowd out the younger children;

4. the expanded playground will continue to be a destination for teenagers at night;
5. the expanded playground will negatively affect the natural beauty of the playground area.

B. Sue Perez: Sue asked whether all the adjacent neighbors disapproved of the playground expansion. Dick DePatie answered that he didn't know. Diane McEnroe stated that she did not have a problem with the playground expansion and that she is one of the adjacent neighbors.

C. Sutzie Canzonetti: Sutzie spoke up in opposition to the playground. She described many incidents of being woken up in the middle of the night by kids hanging out at the playground, screaming and twisting the swings around, letting them crash into the metal poles. She has also found empty beer cans, vodka bottles and garbage on the playground. On the night of the 4th of July, Sutzie observed 19 bikes on the playground. Sutzie stated that in keeping with the community spirit of QCBFD, the voters should respect these concerns and vote against the expansion.

D. Richard Canzonetti: Richard spoke up strongly against the playground. Richard stated that he had hired an attorney. He also stated that he would never assert adverse possession.

E. Vinny Reppucci: Vinny explained that when the playground was originally installed, a commitment was made to maintain a nine-foot barrier between the playground and the adjacent private property. Vinny explained that today's playground expansion motion includes such a barrier.

F. Leah Bradshaw: Leah asked if QCBFD could close the playground after dusk.

G. Roger Schumacher: Roger expressed his concern for the safety of the QCBFD children and his opinion that expanding the playground on an already busy street would be dangerous. He questioned the need to expand the playground.

H. Brewster Blackall: Brewster spoke up in favor of the playground expansion.

Vinny Reppucci announced the creation of an ad hoc committee, which he will chair, to oversee the installation of the new playground equipment. The purpose of such committee will be to minimize any inconvenience and impact to adjacent property owners. Such ad hoc committee will include the "neighborhood committee," one member of the Board of Governors and any other individuals who are interested.

III. Legal Resolutions – Philip Sloan:

Philip Sloan, QCBFD's legal counsel, then spoke. He read the following motions.

A MOTION was made to Ratify and Approve the Acts of Officers of QCBFD.

Resolved: That each and all of the resolutions, acts and proceedings of the District Officers, as shown by the records of the respective officers in carrying out and promoting the purposes, objectives and interests of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District, be and the same are approved, ratified and hereby made the acts and deed of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A MOTION was made to Authorize the Moderator to Appear at Hearings.
Resolved: That the Moderator, or such person or persons as he shall designate, be and hereby are, fully authorized and empowered to enter objections or legal actions on behalf of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District in reference to any zoning matters or any subject affecting the properties in Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A MOTION was made to Assess and Collect a Tax on Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District property.

Resolved: That the electors of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District qualified to vote in the District Meeting legally assembled on September 19, 2009, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable property of said District in the sum of no less than \$225,000 and no higher than \$232,500. Said tax is for ordinary expenses and charges for the interest and indebtedness in whole or in part of said District and for the purposes authorized by law. The Assessor of Taxes shall assess and apportion said tax on the inhabitants and ratable property of said District as of the 31st day of December 2009 at 12:00 noon, according to the law, and shall on the completion of said assessment date, certify and sign the same and deliver the same to the Collector of Taxes on or before the 1st day of March 2010. The Collector of Taxes, on receipt of said assessment, is hereby commanded to proceed and collect said tax on the persons and estates liable therefore. Said tax shall be due and payable on or before the 30th day of April 2010, and all remaining unpaid balances on the 30th day of April 2010, shall carry interest until collected at a penalty rate of 12% per annum upon such unpaid taxes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

I. Adjournment – Vinny Reppucci:

Stephen Long, incoming Moderator, thanked Vinny Reppucci for his outstanding work as Moderator of the QCBFD. Stephen Long presented Vinny Reppucci with a retirement gift of an inscribed ship's bell. A thunderous round of applause followed.

Vinny Reppucci then thanked the QCBFD homeowners for attending the meeting.

A MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Dodge Cady, Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District