

MINUTES
of the
91st Annual Meeting
of
Quonochataug Central Beach Fire District
held on
September 19, 2020
Via Zoom Videoconference (COVID RELATED)
WWW.ZOOM.US

1. Call to Order /Opening Remarks

Susan Wilson-Perez, Moderator

The Moderator, Susan Wilson-Perez, called the 2020 Annual Meeting of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District (QCBFD) to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

Sue asked that questions be submitted in writing because of the virtual format of the meeting. Questions about the water issue and the boat fee that will be handled under New Business. No other questions were asked. Sue especially thanked everyone who volunteers for Special Events for working within the State's COVID guidelines and still creating wonderful events for the community in this unusual summer. Sue also thanked Dede for all her hard work in Merchandise Sales, especially giving the challenges operating under COVID.

2. Certification of Mailing & Approval of Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting Maud Bailey, Clerk

The Clerk certified that a quorum was virtually present or so represented by proxies and that timely notice of the meeting and the accompanying materials required by the By-Laws had been sent to the Eligible voters and were also posted on the District's website.

The Clerk asked if there were any questions or comments on the draft minutes of the QCBFD 2019 Annual Meeting. There were none and a motion was made that the minutes be accepted and approved as presented. The motion was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy.

3. Moderator's Report:

Moderator

Sue then led the group in reciting the pledge of Allegiance.

Sue requested a moment of silence for the following residents who had passed away since the District's last annual meeting: Peggy Rugen, Charles Kellogg, Mary Jane Crosson, Tom Battista and Meg Frost Roy.

Sue announced the new residents in the community: Susie and Ray Martino, Erica and Chris Buse, Pam and Rob Henry and Becki and Ron Henry. Sue extended them a warm welcome into the community.

Acknowledging that the District relied heavily on volunteers and thanking everyone who had given time over the last year volunteering during this very challenging year. Sue expressed special thanks on behalf of the District to the following persons who were stepping down from positions of leadership: Tom Farrell, Chair of Long Range Planning and Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk. Sue thanked Ellen Frost for stepping in to Chair Long Range Planning in the fall and Chris Harris for taking the Assistant Clerk's position.

Sue reported that the most pressing issue outside of the COVID 19 pandemic facing the Fire District is the water treatment issue and the proposed plans to solve it. Sue thanked everyone for their questions that were emailed prior to the meeting and informed everyone that the water project will be addressed in the New Business section of the meeting.

4. Reports of Managers:

Reports of most QCBFD Managers were included in the packets sent to voters in advance of the Annual Meeting (please see attached). Any other reports of Managers were put on the QCBFD website as received. During this portion of the meeting, Managers or their representatives will respond to questions.

Sue asked that questions be submitted in writing. Questions about the boat fee that will be handled under New Business. No other questions were asked. Sue especially thanked everyone who volunteers for Special Events for working within the State's COVID guidelines and still creating wonderful events for the community in this unusual summer. Sue also thanked Dede for all her hard work in Merchandise Sales, especially giving the challenges operating under COVID.

Merchandise Sales	Dede Consoli
Beach and Dunes	Peter Rettig
Police Liaison & Beach/Boating Monitors	Julie Low
Special Events	Elaine Heilemann
QCBFD Boating	Bob Frazier
Ball Field and Playground	Matt DeFusco
Tennis	Mark McEnroe
Webmaster	Betty Wilson
Email Blast Coordinator	Kate Thornton

5. Reports & Proposals of Standing Committees

Sue reported that reports of all QCBFD standing Committee Chairs were included in the packets sent to voters in advance of the Annual Meeting (please see attached). During this portion of the meeting, Sue opened up the floor to residents to ask questions to the Committee Chairs or their representatives.

Again Sue asked the community to submit their questions via the chat box to any of the Committee Chairs.

No questions were asked. Sue then handed the meeting over to Al Bartosic, Finance and Budget Chair for his report and motions.

Community Property:	Julia Mathews
Long Range Planning	Ellen Frost
Public Works:	Vinnie Reppucci
Finance and Budget:	Al Bartosic

Al then moved, one at a time, the following resolutions, each of which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. All motions passed unanimously.

Proposed Motions:

Resolved, that the 2021 budget as presented at the District Meeting on September 19th, 2020, including an approximate \$375,300 in Tax Revenue (2.0% above 2020), as approved by the Board of Governors, be adopted.

Resolved, that the electors of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District qualified to vote in the District Meeting legally assembled on September 19th, 2020, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable property of said District in the sum of no less than \$374,400 nor greater than \$376,300. Said tax is for ordinary expenses and charges for the interest and indebtedness in whole or in part of said District and for purposes authorized by law. The Assessors of Taxes shall assess and apportion said tax on the inhabitants and ratable property of said District as of the 30th day of June 2021 at 12:00 noon based upon December 31st 2020 assessed values as computed by the town of Charlestown, according to the law, and shall on the completion of the said assessment date, certify and sign the same and deliver the same to the Collector of Taxes or about the 1st day of August 2021. The Collector of Taxes, on receipt of said assessment, is hereby commanded to proceed and collect said tax on the persons and estates liable therefor. Said tax shall be due and payable on or before the 30th day after the date of certification by the Assessors of Taxes, and all remaining unpaid balances after such due date shall carry interest until collected at a penalty rate of 12% per annum upon such unpaid taxes.

Resolved, that the authority to draw on the \$500,000 Line of Credit with Washington Trust, which was approved for a five-year period by the District at its Annual Meeting in 2011, be renewed with effect from September 2016 for an additional ten year period through September 2026. This \$500,000 Line of Credit may be used by the District for both normal operating cash flow needs and emergencies, in either case as approved by a majority of the District's Board of Governors.

Resolved, that any surplus from each fiscal year (beginning with the year ending December 31, 2020), may hereby be added to the Contingency reserves of the District and will be available for use during future budget periods. With the permission of the majority of the District's Board of Governors, such funding may be reallocated and used for any existing reserve categories. In addition, during any fiscal year, with the approval of the majority of the Board of Governors, reserve funds may be reallocated amongst existing reserve categories.

6. New Business

Water Project. Sue handed the floor over to Vinnie Reppucci, Chair of Public Works, to lead the discussion on the District's water issues and the work on the project to upgrade the water system as mandated by the Rhode Island Department of Health ("RIDOH"). Vinny led the discussion by first thanking the entire community for their patience and the whole Public Works Committee for their work. He then led a presentation that went over the history and current state of the district's water and the proposed water project in order to be RIDOH compliant.

Vinny then moved the following resolution and the motion was seconded and opened up for discussion. Questions were asked, one concerning whether the community could get water from the Town of Charlestown and the answer is, no, that Charlestown has no town water. second question concerned whether the installation of the new water system will come with a performance guarantee for design and installation. Vinny answered that the plans are not that far in the design to date but whatever design we choose we will have a pilot design to make sure the design is effective. Third question dealt with the cost of the project, which Vinny answered that based on discussions with the outside consultants the budget presented should be the upper limit. Al Bartosic then led a brief presentation on the financing options to finance the construction of the new water system. Vinny was thanked by the community for all his hard work on this project

Following the discussion, the motion was voted on and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolved, that a 4-log disinfection system RIDOH compliant upgrade to the District water system, as mandated by the RIDOH, utilizing project modifications as deemed necessary by the DOH and other technical factors no greater than \$900,000 be approved by the District with the BoG having authority to modify the plans as necessary. Final financing terms and lender(s) shall be subject to the approval of the majority of the Board of Governors. In addition, as part of the financing for the Water Project, the Board of Governors may decide to refinance and consolidate the existing water loan on the balance sheet of the District in an amount of no greater than \$75,000. The Board of Governors may delegate the authority to negotiate and execute such loans to the person or person(s) approved by the majority of the Board of Governors.

Vessel Fee at Boat Dock. Sue then handed over the meeting to Bob Frazier, Manager of the Boat Dock/Marina to lead the discussion concerning a vessel fee for those vessels stored on site at the dock. Bob discussed the state of the marina and the vessels stored there. He thanked all the volunteers who have done work on the Marina and Merchandise Sales for a grant to do work to improve the area. Bob then discussed the proposed fee and a discussion was opened up and ensued.

After the discussion, Bob then moved the following resolution, which was seconded discussion followed. There was one question concerning this fee submitted via the chat function. Following the discussion, the motion was voted on and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. Sue noted that the vote was passed by a vast majority of Yea votes.

Resolved, that the Board of Governors is authorized to collect a fee of \$30.00 per vessel stored at the QCBFD Boat Dock per year to be paid by QCBFD residents prior to July 4th of year calendar year.

7. Legal Resolution Sue made the following Legal Resolution which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motions passed unanimously.

Resolved, that each and all of the resolutions, acts and proceedings of the District Officers, Committee Chairmen and Managers, as shown by their respective records, 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 deeds of the Quonochontaug Central Fire District.

8. Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers, Tax Assessors and Board of Governors

Mary Duffy

Mary Duffy in place of Nomination Chair, Mark Alperin, read the slate (please see attached) and made the following resolution, which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motion was passed unanimously.

Resolved, That the slate of Officers, Tax Assessors and members of the Board of Governors for the 2020-2021 year (please see attached) proposed by the Nominating Committee be elected.

9. Other Business

Moderator

The meeting will consider any other business that may come before it. In that regard, Article 3, Section 7 of our By-Laws provides that "Any Eligible Voter may make a new motion at the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting which shall be submitted in writing and may be seconded, ruled in order, discussed and voted upon. However, to be passed the number of votes necessary for approval of the motion shall be not less than sixty-five percent (65%) of those voting at the meeting in person or by proxy.

The issues that were brought up were: coordination with East Beach on beach rules, the locking of the Beach Parking lot and a request for the Board of Governors to review the rule restricting eating on the beach. Sue said all the above issues will be discussed at future Board of Governors' meetings.

10. Adjournment

Roy Jacobson made a motion to adjourn at 11:16am. The motion which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motion was passed unanimously.