

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
held on Saturday, July 1, 2017
in the Charlestown Police Station, Community Room
4901 Old Post Road
Charlestown RI 02813**

Members in Attendance: Brewster Blackall, Charlie Freedgood, Tom Frost, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, Vinny Reppucci, Randy Thornton and Tom Wildman

Members Absent: Tom Farrell and Jim Mara

Also in attendance were Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk, and members of the public.

I. Call to Order; Approval of Minutes.

The Moderator, Randy Thornton, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:03 a.m..

A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes of the May 27, 2017 meeting of the Board of Governors. The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion (other than the Moderator, who under the District by-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

II. Report of Chair of Public Works Committee

Vinny Reppucci, Committee Chair, reported that the Public Works Committee recommends that we switch maintenance of the streetlights on District roads from National Grid to the Partnership for Rhode Island Streetlight Management (PRISM). The Committee has also discussed replacing our streetlights with LED lights but some individuals have expressed concern about the color temperature or warmth of these lights. Vinny indicated that the Committee does not contemplate making a recommendation on the proposed switch until after all concerned individuals, including the Board of Governors, have had an opportunity to view LED lights of the type contemplated that have been installed and are in use elsewhere. Vinny and Tom Gentz, past President of the Town Council of Charlestown (which has switched its maintenance to PRISM and plans to switch to LED lights), answered various questions.

Following discussion, Vinny made a **motion** that QCBFD enter into an agreement with PRISM for the maintenance of streetlights on District roads at an annual cost to the District less than the amount currently being paid for streetlight maintenance. The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in at-

APPROVED

tendance voting in favor of the motion (other than the Moderator, who under the District by-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Vinny next made a **motion** to authorize PRISM to seek, on behalf of the District, reimbursement from National Grid for maintenance charges previously paid for a street-light (Oceanview Pole 2) that had been removed and to arrange for the Town of Charlestown to assume responsibility for the maintenance charges for a light (Sea Breeze Pole 16) not on QCBFD roads. The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion (other than the Moderator, who under the District by-laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Vinny reported that the first of the seven new stop signs approved for installation at our 2016 Annual Meeting has been installed and that the others will be installed soon.

Moving on to our water system, Vinny reported that nitrate levels remain flat and that the system control panel upgrade (which permits routine cycling between our two wells) has been completed.

III. Clerk's Report

The Clerk, Tom Wildman, reminded those in attendance that the District's 2017 Annual Meeting will be on September 16, as mandated by our Charter. In order to send to the voters sufficiently in advance of the meeting the packets of materials required by our by-laws, any matters that any Committee or Manager wishes to request be put before the voters at the Annual Meeting should be presented to the Board of Governors at its August 5 meeting so that it may be approved in time to be factored in the proposed budget for next year, which will need to be approved no later than at the Board's meeting scheduled for August 19.

IV. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Julia Mathews, indicated that she is still seeking a volunteer knowledgeable about the system to tell her when a building permit for a construction project in the District exceeding \$50,000 is issued so that she can send bills for the District's road impact fee and construction bond.

Julia advised those present that the two defibrillators that were reordered after the original vendor failed to deliver were now scheduled to arrive in July.

V. Manager Reports

A. Julie Low, Police Liaison and Manager of Beach Gate Monitors, reported that she had met with the beach parking lot gate monitors to review how to deal with persons attempting to use the parking lot without displaying the proper sticker and/or card.

B. Brewster Blackall, Manager of the QCBFD Marina, stated that boat stickers are now available and that times when they may be picked up are posted on the bulletin boards. Brewster also remarked that the available storage space at the boat landing is diminishing. Various suggestions were made, including re-instituting a fee for boat stickers, limiting the number of stickers per household and adding more storage racks,

VI. Report of Chair of Finance and Budget Committee

Charlie Freedgood, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, reviewed 2016 year-end financial results, comparing actual to budget numbers. He noted that because both capital and operating expenses were less than budgeted, we were able to increase cash balances and reserves more than expected.

Charlie reported that the initial annual review of tax assessments and collections in accordance with procedures adopted by the committee had been completed and no problems were noted.

Charlie also recalled that the Long Range Planning Committee had recommended that we obtain insurance certificates from contractors and that, while some flexibility is necessary, Committee Chairs and Managers should follow this practice as much as possible. Moreover, our insurance agent has made us aware of a new form (Notice of Designation as Independent Contractor Pursuant to RIGL §28-29-17.1) that we should require from contractors. Various members of the Board reaffirmed the importance of complying with these requirements.

VII. Use of District Resources

Randy recalled that various questions have been raised about uses of District assets (e.g., the beach parking lot and the QCBFD tennis courts) in ways that some question as inappropriate or unfair. These include (i) use by owners of “sliver lots” who pay minimal QCBFD taxes because of the unbuildable status of the lots, (ii) open-ended use by long-term “guests” of QCBFD owners, (iii) use by renters of houses located outside the District but owned by QCBFD owners, and (iv) supply of QCBFD water to residential property outside the District. Randy stated that certain legacy situations that had been questioned were still being investigated; however, based on a preliminary discussion that he and the Clerk had had with our legal counsel, taking the actions necessary to prohibit certain of these uses (including some that have gone on to at least some degree for a very long time) could be more contentious and require greater changes, including changes to our charter and by-laws, than the perceived problems currently merit. That said, the Board might wish to adopt guidelines discouraging certain uses that seem inappropriate. No action was taken.

APPROVED

VIII.

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:55 a.m.. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas R. Wildman, Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District