

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District  
Board of Governors  
held on Saturday, April 23, 2016  
at the Charlestown Police Station  
Community Room  
4901 Old Post Road  
Charlestown RI 02813**

Members in Attendance: Brewster Blackall, Joe DeMaio, Charlie Freedgood, Tom Frost, Bill Heep, Wally Kelly, Julia Mathews, Nancy Matthews, and Tom Wildman

Members Absent: Michele Pallai Reppucci

Also in attendance were Katherine Huntington, Manager of Special Events; Kathy Alperin, Manager of Merchandise Sales; Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk, and members of the public.

**I. Call to Order**

The Moderator, Nancy Matthews, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m..

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes of the September 27, 2015 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 except for (i) the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie, and (ii) Tom Frost, who indicated that he would abstain because he had not been at the meeting.

**III. Clerk's Report**

Tom Wildman reviewed some of the requirements of Rhode Island's Open Meetings Act that are applicable to the District's four standing committees but will not apply to Managers and the volunteer groups assisting them in accordance with the revised by-laws of the District adopted at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

#### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

Julia Mathews reminded those in attendance to invoke the District's tax-exempt status whenever possible when making purchases on behalf of the District. Julia also stated that in order to reduce security risks she will require that bills sent to her for payment come through a Manager, Committee Head or member of the Board of Governors.

#### **V. Committee and Manager Reports**

**Public Works.** Wally Kelly, Chair of the Public Works Committee, reviewed the nitrate test results from 2002 forward for each of the two QCBFD wells and the two East Beach wells. He noted that monthly testing, as opposed to annual testing, had only started in mid-2014 and that before then the QCBFD and East Beach wells were tested in different months. Wally indicated that the State of Rhode Island may treat the four wells as if they were one so it is important for us to continue to monitor the nitrate levels in the four wells and to explore alternative courses of action if nitrate levels become unsafe in any of the wells. Unfortunately, the deep well testing that was done pursuant to the authorization given at the 2015 Annual Meeting did not result in finding a significant new source of water for us. Wally stated that we have switched from using primarily our Well # 1 to Well # 2 because Well # 2 appears to have lower nitrate levels; however the water from it also has higher amounts of iron and this is resulting in discoloration problems for some. We are still waiting for the results of a State-funded evaluation of the feasibility of installing and operating a denitrification system.

Wally also reported that the work to alleviate the ponding problem on Surfside Ave has been completed and appears to have been successful, although he has received some complaints that the new speed bumps installed as part of the project are too abrupt.

**Finance and Budget.** Charlie Freedgood, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, summarized the 2015 year-end financial results. He indicated that we had finished the year in accordance with the revised budget approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting, with a slightly higher (approximately \$11,000 higher) than expected cash balance.

Charlie further reported that since the 2015 Annual Meeting he has made 5 filings with the State of Rhode Island in compliance with the State's recently-

adopted financial reporting requirements for fire districts. These included our annual budget and quarterly and year-end financial statements.

**Community Property.** Bill Heep, Chair of the Community Property Committee, reported on the status of discussions with the Dunn's Corners Fire Department concerning a new contract for fire protection following the expiration of our current contract. Dunn's Corners has agreed to extend our current contract to the end of 2016 so that a proposed new contract can be finalized and presented for approval at our 2016 Annual Meeting in September.

Bill also reported that he gave approval for the installation of a Purple Martin House behind the ball field with the understanding that the house will be removed if the full Community Property Committee declines to approve this installation at its next meeting.

**Special Events.** Katherine Huntington, Manager of Special Events, reported that a group of volunteers is preparing a printed version of the QCBFD Directory for sale this year. Katherine mentioned a few of the many events that are planned for the 2016 season and indicated that a "save the dates" mailing has been sent to residents. To encourage new volunteers to help with special events, a brunch for volunteers and prospective volunteers is planned. The theme for this year's 4th of July parade will be "Westward Ho!"

**Merchandise Sales.** Kathy Alperin, Manager of Merchandise Sales, reported that the process of ordering merchandise for sale this year is underway.

## **VI. Special Report Concerning Zika Virus**

Tom Frost reported that at Nancy's request he had made inquiries about the level of concern that QCBFD residents might have concerning the Zika virus. He indicated that the RI Department of Health told him that there were no mosquitos known to carry the virus in the state but that the situation could change rapidly and individuals wishing to stay updated should check the department's website regularly. The Town of Charlestown has indicated that it has no present plans to spray against mosquitos but that it does have a mosquito abatement program. The District sprays the ball field for mosquitos, and a number of QCBFD residents have their properties sprayed.

## **VII. Moderator's Report**

Nancy reported that the RI Attorney General's Office recently issued its findings with respect to various outstanding complaints made against the District by a resident in 2014. The Department did not recommend any fines

or other sanctions but did indicate that the District had failed to properly respond to certain requests by the resident in accordance with the Access to Public Records Act and should take action to cure these violations. This has been done. The Attorney General's findings will be posted on the website for anyone interested.

### **VIII. New Business**

Nancy stated that she is asking the Long Range Planning Committee to work with the Public Works Committee to develop plans for the long-term maintenance of our water supply, including the taking of any necessary denitrification actions, and the maintenance of our roads. Joe DeMaio, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, indicated that there are other projects that he would like the committee to pursue as well. These projects are related to those mentioned by Nancy and include determining appropriate reserve levels, devising a plan to achieve them and developing a protocol for the hiring of contractors.

Nancy noted that QCBFD has a new website and thanked Sue Birk and the volunteers who had assisted her with the creation of this site as well as all the committee chairs, managers and other volunteers who are responsible for maintaining the District's assets and managing its many activities.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:50 a.m.. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

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