

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District  
Board of Governors  
held on Saturday, June 20, 2015  
at the Charlestown Police Station, Community Room  
4901 Post Road  
Charlestown RI 02813**

Members in Attendance: Brewster Blackall, Joe DeMaio, Charlie Freedgood, Wally Kelly, Julia Mathews, Nancy Matthews, Michele Pallai Reppucci, and Tom Wildman

Members Absent: Bill Heep and Tom Frost

Also in attendance were Special Events Commissioner Katherine Huntington, Community Sales Commissioner Marianne McNee, Tennis Commissioner Susan Wales and members of the public.

**I. Call to Order**

The Moderator, Nancy Matthews, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m..

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A **motion** was made to approve the minutes of the May 23, 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 (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

**III. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk, Tom Wildman, as chair of the Ad Hoc By-Laws Revision Committee, reported that the committee has a draft of proposed amended and restated QCBFD by-laws ready for consideration by the Board of Governors. Tom will send this draft to members of the Board sufficiently in advance of its July 11 meeting so that the Board can discuss any comments it may have at that meeting. He will also provide a summary of the proposed changes from our current by-laws. The objective is to have a final draft available for review by all interested persons well in advance of the QCBFD annual meeting in

September so that the proposed changes can be voted on at that meeting. Tom briefly summarized certain changes that the Ad Hoc Committee has included in its proposals, including a significant reduction in the number of standing committees with the expectation that responsibility for matters currently handled by those committees that are not continued will be assigned to designated individuals.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Julia Mathews, reported that there were no unpaid District taxes and that there have been no unusual expenditures.

#### IV. Committee Reports

A. Finance and Budget. Charlie Freedgood, Commissioner of Finance and Budget, distributed and discussed a 2014 Financial Performance Summary. He compared the budget and actual amounts of individual items and reported that overall the District finished 2014 on target.

Charlie noted that the District voters had approved a resolution at the 2014 annual meeting authorizing payment of certain legal and professional expenditures as approved by the Board of Governors. He then made the following **motion** which was seconded and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor, except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie:

**Resolved**, that further to the approved motion at the annual meeting on September 13, 2014, the legal and professional expenses incurred in connection with Fresh Pond in the amount of \$16,642.71 be paid from the Asset Replacement Fund.

Charlie next noted that the District voters had approved another resolution at the 2014 annual meeting authorizing the allocation of reserve fund balances as approved by the Board of Governors. He then made the following **motion** which was seconded and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor, except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie:

**Resolved**, that further to the approved motion at the annual meeting on September 13, 2014, the allocation of reserve fund balances as of December 31, 2014 shall be as follows: Contingency—\$3,000; Water Conservation—\$7,000; Road—\$14,300; Boat Launch—\$7,000; Mapping—\$0; Tennis—

\$2,700; Asset Replacement—0; Dunn's Corners—0; Compliance==\$6,000; for a Total of \$40,000.

Charlie then reported that the Finance and Budget Committee had discussed with a representative of the Public Works Committee that committee's proposal to expend approximately \$30,000 to explore (including the drilling of a deep test well) an alternative source of potable water with lesser nitrate content, which proposal had been referred to the Finance and Budget Committee for review and comment by the Board of Governors at its May 23, 2014 meeting. Charlie indicated that the Finance and Budget Committee had not focused on the merits of the test well itself but had considered funding alternatives for such an unbudgeted expenditure, including authorization by the Board of Governors upon its declaration of an emergency in accordance with our by-laws. Charlie also commented on financing alternatives for the additional cost (currently estimated to be approximately \$130,000) of actually incorporating a new deep well into our system. Wally Kelly, Commissioner of Public Works, and Dick Campbell, a member of the Public Works Committee, explained more fully the reasons why they believe it is important to drill a test well now even though the Public Works Committee has no intention of proposing going further unless and until it becomes apparent that we need to take additional action to reduce nitrate levels and the committee continues to believe at that time that adding a new deep well to our system is preferable to treating the water from our existing wells. Nancy distributed a Memo from Northwest Water Solutions, Inc. further describing the deep well proposal. The Board will discuss the matter further at its next meeting.

B. Civic Improvement: In the absence of Bill Heep, Commissioner of Civic Improvement/Fire Protection, Nancy reported that the Civic Improvement Committee had discussed the suggestion of a resident that during July and August vehicles leaving the beach parking lot be required to proceed straight down Surfside Avenue and not turn right onto Oceanview; however, the committee believed that they did not have sufficient information to express an opinion on this suggestion.

C. Police Protection: Michele Pallai, Commissioner of Police Protection, reported that, in an effort to improve monitoring of vehicles using the beach parking lot, we plan to install a stop sign at the entrance to the lot. The stop sign will be in lieu of traffic cones that were previously considered.

D. Public Works: Wally Kelly, Commissioner of Public Works, indicated that he had nothing to add to the comments he had made as part of the discussion of the deep well proposal summarized above.

E. Long Range Planning. Joe DeMaio, Commissioner of Long Range Planning, reported that the Long Range Planning Committee was considering a number of matters, including the deep well proposal, various risk mitigation matters and ways to mitigate the ponding problem on Surfside Avenue.

F. Special Events. Katherine Huntington, Commissioner of Special Events, indicated that she expected many of the usual activities this Summer, including a dance and beach picnic.

G. Boating. Brewster Blackall, Commissioner of Boating, indicated that boat stickers were now available for residents storing boats at the QCBFD boat landing.

H. Other Committees: The Commissioners who head other committees indicated before or at the meeting that they had nothing to report.

#### V. **Old Business**

Nancy indicated that now that the transfer to the District of property formerly owned by the Millette Family Trust that is used for bicycle parking has been completed, she intends to publicly thank the Millettes for this generous gift.

#### VI. **New Business**

Nancy reported that the Town of Charlestown is planning to install signs on town roads in the area indicating that it is a drinking water supply area and that we could get these signs for use on District roads if we wished. After discussion, it was agreed by consensus that such signs were not necessary on our roads and that other, better means were available to remind residents of the need to safeguard our water supply.

#### VII. **Adjournment**

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:05 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

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