

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
held on Saturday, July 11, 2015
at the Charlestown Police Station, Community Room
4901 Post Road
Charlestown RI 02813**

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

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance were Special Events Commissioner Katherine Huntington, Community Sales Commissioner Marianne McNee, Beaches and Dunes Commissioner Sharon Frost, Assistant Clerk Sally Devin, and members of the public.

I. Call to Order

The Moderator, Nancy Matthews, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:01 a.m..

II. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made to approve the minutes of the June 20, 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, led a discussion of the proposed amended and restated QCBFD By-Laws (marked Draft # 4 for Review by Board of Governors) that, along with a summary of the principal changes contained in the proposal, had been distributed to members of the Board of Governors and Commissioners for review in advance of the meeting. Tom reported that the proposed amendment and restatement had been reviewed by Peter Ruggiero, legal counsel to the

District, whose only suggestion was that a provision be added to Article 9 to make it clear that the individual “managers” contemplated by the proposed amendment and restatement do not have authority to bind the District except as authorized or permitted by the Board of Governors. Tom also noted additional changes to the proposed amendment and restatement that he would suggest making as a result of comments he had received from one member of the Board. Upon completion of the Board’s discussion of the proposal, Tom moved passage of the following resolutions, which **motion** 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 the proposed Amendment and Restatement of the District’s By-Laws submitted by the Ad Hoc By-Laws Revision Committee (marked Draft # 4 for Review by Board of Governors) be posted on our website for review, with the following changes made before posting: (1) an addition to Article 9, §2 to make it clear that Managers do not have authority to bind the District except as authorized or permitted by the Board of Governors and a similar addition to Article 8, §2 with respect to Committees and their Chairs; (2) a change in Article 3, §4 to provide that the Nominating Committee may make recommendations for appointment of committee members and chairs and managers but is not required to do so in all cases; (3) subject to the advise of District counsel, a change to Article 4, §3 to provide that the Board of Governors may make or approve unbudgeted expenditures in an amount not to exceed 5% of the current District budget; (4) the deletion of §3 of Article 12; and (5) such additional non-substantive changes in wording as the Moderator and the Clerk, as Chair of the Ad Hoc By-Laws Revision Committee, shall approve;

Resolved, further, that there shall also be posted on our website a summary of the principal changes contained in the aforesaid Amendment and Restatement of the District’s By-Laws, such summary to be in such form as the Moderator and the Clerk, as Chair of the Ad Hoc By-Laws Revision Committee, shall approve; and

Resolved, still further, that such posting on our website shall indicate that, subject to residents’ comments, the Board of Governors intends to recommend that the aforesaid Amendment and Restatement of the District’s By-Laws be voted on and approved at the annual meeting of the District in September.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer, Julia Mathews, indicated that she had nothing to report.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Long Range Planning. Joe DeMaio, Commissioner of Long Range Planning, reported that the Long Range Planning Committee was considering a number of matters, including best practices for entering into contracts and maintaining appropriate insurance coverage. He then summarized the Committee's policy recommendations for dealing with the "ponding" problem on Surfside Avenue and similar problems at other locations should they arise. A discussion followed during which members of the Board noted that the problem on Surfside Avenue has gotten worse in recent years and that the problem has been exacerbated by various factors, including construction and landscaping both within and outside the unpaved portion of the District roadway by abutting property owners and that the cost of correction should be shared. Differing views were expressed. Following discussion, passage of the following resolution was moved, which **motion** was seconded and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor, except for Tom Frost, who voted against the motion, and except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie:

Resolved, that the District take responsibility for mitigating or causing the mitigation of "ponding" on any part of the District roads if water regularly remains across the paved portion of the road for more than 24 hours following precipitation.

B. Public Works: Wally Kelly, Commissioner of Public Works, described possible alternatives for mitigating the "ponding" problem on Surfside Avenue. Wally agreed to discuss the alternatives and the cost of their implementation with the abutting property owners and to report further to the Board at its next meeting.

C. Finance and Budget. Charlie Freedgood, Commissioner of Finance and Budget, indicated that the proposed District budget for 2016 needed to be prepared before the end of August and asked committee heads to submit their budget requests.

D. Special Events. Katherine Huntington, Commissioner of Special Events, indicated that the Fourth of July parade had been a great success with a large number of participants in the parade. The beach picnic had to be cancelled because of bad weather but that the kids' and adults' dances are coming up.

E. Boating. Brewster Blackall, Commissioner of Boating, reminded everyone in attendance that boat stickers were now available for residents storing boats at the QCBFD boat landing.

F. 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 the proposal of the Public Works Committee to drill a deep test well to explore an alternative source of potable water with lesser nitrate content would be discussed and possibly acted upon at the next meeting of the Board. Members should e-mail to Wally any questions that they would like addressed before voting on the proposal.

VI. **New Business**

The Board discussed rescheduling its meeting currently set for August 15 and possibly scheduling an additional meeting in August. Nancy will send an e-mail to Board members and Commissioners in order to determine possible dates.

VII. **Adjournment**

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:07 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

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