

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
held on Saturday, August 20, 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, Michele Pallai Reppucci and Tom Wildman

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance were Katherine Huntington, Manager of Special Events; Susan Wales, Manager of Tennis; Roy Jacobsen, Chair of the Nominating Committee, 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 & Clerk's Report

The Clerk, Tom Wildman, made a **motion** to approve the draft minutes of the July 16, 2016 meeting of the Board of Governors, with one addition to the paragraph entitled "Fire Protection Services". The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

Tom noted that the date by which we need to send to voters the notice of our 2016 Annual Meeting and the related materials required by our By-Laws is Friday, September 2, and he and the Moderator encouraged Committee Chairs and Managers to submit their annual reports no later than August 27 in order to allow sufficient time for copying and assembling the packets to be sent.

Tom distributed a proposed form of Proxy Designation, similar to that used in prior years but updated to, among other things, eliminate references to absentee voting, that he proposed for use in connection with this year's Annual Meeting. A **motion** was made to approve the proposed form. The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of

Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

III. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Julia Mathews, reported that the District tax bills had gone out later than usual this year because of a variety of problems. No interest will be charged on payments received late as a result of the delay in sending out the bills.

IV. Manager's Report.

Michele Pallai Reppucci, Manager of Beach Monitors and Police Liaison, reported that there has been an increase this year in the number of persons violating the District's beach rules, including the prohibition on food and drink on the beach and the requirement that those parking in the beach lot display a pass at certain times; and that there has also been an increase in individuals from out of the area walking onto the beach. She will suggest that her successor and the Board consider various options to deal with these problems, including additional signage and the hiring of an adult to back up the teen monitors.

Michele further reported that she had discussed with the proponent his suggestion that the District adopt a rule requiring children to wear helmets when riding bicycles on District roads. She then made a **motion** that the Board recommend to the voters adoption of the following resolution at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

Resolved that the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District strongly recommends that, in recognition of the fact that bicycle accidents are a major cause of head injury and helmets are known to significantly reduce the incidence and severity of head trauma and, in recognition of that fact many states, including Rhode Island, have enacted laws requiring bike helmets for children riding on bikes on public roadways, all children fifteen years of age and younger should wear helmets when riding on bikes on QCBFD private roads.

The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie..

Michele indicated that both the proponent, a neurosurgeon, and the Charlestown Police Department had offered to participate in a bicycling safety presentation to the community.

Michele concluded by informing the Board that the supplier has delayed shipment of the two defibrillators being purchased by the District so they will not be available for use until next year.

Noting that Michele was ending her tenure on the Board and as Police Liaison and Manager of Beach Monitors, the Moderator thanked Michele for her hard work and many contributions to the community in a vast number of ways. Those in attendance showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

V. Committee Reports

Public Works. Wally Kelly, Chair of the Public Works Committee, briefly reviewed previous recommendations and decisions made by the Board of Governors and the Public Works and Long Range Planning Committees with respect to the possible installation of stop signs at 7 locations where District roads intersect state or town roads. Wally indicated that such installation would require sign off by the Town of Charlestown if the signs are placed within the Town's right of way and that the total cost would be between \$1,200 and \$1,500, assuming that much of the work required would be done by volunteers. Wally then made a **motion** that, subject to obtaining any necessary approvals, we proceed with the placement of stop signs at the 7 locations where District Roads intersect town or state roads and that we recommend that the voters of the District approve such placement by adoption of the following resolution at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

Resolved, that the decision of the Board of Governors at its August 20, 2016 meeting to place stop signs, subject to obtaining any necessary approvals, at the 7 locations where District roads intersect town or state roads (that is at the intersection of Bay View Road, going in each direction, and Sea Breeze Avenue; the intersection of Ninigret Avenue and Sea Breeze Avenue; the intersection of Surfside Avenue and West Beach Road; the intersection of Central Street and West Beach Road; the intersection of Kenyon Avenue and West Beach Road; and the intersection of Boulder Avenue and West Beach Road), in the shape and size approved by the Board of Governors at its June 25, 2016 meeting, is approved.

The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

Wally also updated the Board on the most recent nitrate level test results for the District's water system. The August result for Well #1 was 5.2 compared to 5.1 last year. An alert will be sent out because the result was over 5.0.

Wally noted that various alternatives were set forth in the July, 2016 Engineering Evaluation and Facility Improvement Plan prepared by Northeast Water Solutions, Inc. (NWSI) for the RI Department of Health to address improving source water protection and the reduction of nitrates in the QCBFD public water supply. These include the installation of individual nitrate treatment systems, central treatment systems and the location of new sources of water with reduced levels of nitrates. Wally indicated that the problem will continue to require study and evaluation but that he personally currently favors trying to locate an alternative water source for the District with respect to which all necessary easements could be obtained.

Noting that Wally was ending his tenure on the Board and as Chair of the Public Works Committee, the Moderator thanked Wally for his hard work, countless hours of service to the community and his leadership in focusing us on the potential problems resulting from nitrates in our water supply. Those in attendance showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Long Range Planning. Joe DeMaio, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, reported that the committee had discussed the NWSI Report following the joint meeting that the Public Works and Long Range Planning Committees had had with Bob Ferrari of NWSI to review the report. Joe indicated that members of the Long Range Planning Committee believed that we should proceed with the first three recommendations set forth in the Report. These include determining at what point we would move to implement corrective action, continuing to monitor nitrate levels and undertaking further study and assessment of ground water sources in Quonochontaug Neck. Joe also noted the need to build appropriate reserves in light of the possibility that the District may at some point be required to incur substantial costs in order to address the nitrate problem. During discussion, it was noted that the study recommended by NWSI would benefit all of Quonochontaug, not just QCBFD, and that it would seem appropriate for others to share in the cost. Board members also suggested that the Long Range Planning and Public Works Committees continue to work together to formulate joint recommendations as they continue to study and evaluate alternatives.

Noting that Joe too was ending his tenure on the Board and as Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, the Moderator thanked Joe for his hard work and valuable service to the community. Those in attendance showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Finance and Budget Committee. Charlie Freedgood, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, reviewed projected year-end financials compared to

2015 actual and 2016 budgeted numbers and noted no variations of concern. Charlie then presented a proposed budget for 2017, as approved by the Finance and Budget Committee, and noted that the budget that he would recommend would include a minor reallocation of funds (\$1,500) to cover the cost of stop signs discussed above.

Following discussion, Charlie made a **motion** that the 2017 budget proposed by the Finance and Budget Committee, with the adjustment for stop signs described above, be approved and that the Board of Governors recommend its adoption by the voters of the District at the 2016 Annual Meeting pursuant to the following resolution:

Resolved, that the 2017 budget, including an approximate \$10,900 increase in Tax Revenue (4% above 2016), as approved by the Board of Governors, be adopted and approved.

The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

Charlie next made a motion that the Board of Governors approve and recommend adoption of the following tax resolution by the voters of the District at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

Resolved, that the electors of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District qualified to vote in the District Meeting legally assembled on September 17, 2016, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable property of said District in the sum of no less than \$280,750 nor greater than \$284,750. Said tax is for ordinary expenses and charges for the interest and indebtedness in whole or part of said District and for the 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 2017 at 12:00 noon, 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 on or about the 1st day of August 2017. 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.

The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

Nominating Committee. Roy Jacobsen, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Committee's nominations for election by the voters as officers, tax assessors and members of the Board of Governors as well as the Committee's recommendations for individuals to be appointed by the Board of Governors as Committee Chairs or members or as Managers. The nominations for election as officers, tax assessors and members of the Board of Governors will be submitted to the voters at the 2016 Annual Meeting, and the recommendations for appointment will be considered by the Board after the Annual Meeting.

Roy also expressed the Committee's thanks for the contributions of Nancy, who is retiring as Moderator, and the other retiring members of the Board of Governors as well as the retiring Managers and Committee heads and members.

VI. Old Business

Fire Protection Services. Bill Heep reviewed the status of discussions with Dunn's Corner Fire District for a new contract. The discussions continue to proceed slowly, and we will not have a proposed new contract for presentation to the District voters until 2017. In the meantime, we will continue to receive fire protection services from Dunn's Corner, subject to retroactive application of the terms of the new contract for periods after the end of this year.

After Bill finished his update, Nancy noted that although Bill was finishing his tenure on the Board and as Chair of the Community Property Committee, he has agreed to continue leading our contract renewal discussions with Dunn's Corner. Nancy thanked Bill for his hard work and his past and continuing conscientious service to the community, and those present showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

VII. New Business

Legal Resolution. The Clerk noted that the Annual Meeting voters have traditionally passed a ratification resolution covering actions of the District officers. After consultation with our RI counsel, the Clerk and the Moderator are proposing that the resolution recommended this year be expanded to also expressly cover the actions of Committee chairs and Managers.

The Clerk **moved** that the following resolution be presented to the voters for adoption at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the District:

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 Beach Fire District.

The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

Resident's Motions. The Moderator noted that she had distributed to all members of the Board of Governors 6 motions and numerous pages of supporting and explanatory materials that were submitted by a resident for inclusion in the packets sent to voters in advance of the 2016 Annual Meeting in accordance with our By-Laws. Nancy further noted that under our By-Laws, the Board could, if it chose to do so, recommend to the voters either that they approve or reject these 6 motions. The Board discussed each motion individually and in each case decided by consensus of all to recommend against its adoption.

A **motion** was made to authorize the Clerk and the Moderator to set forth in a writing to be included with the resident's motions in the packets mailed to voters the primary reasons expressed by Board members for recommending that the resident's motions not be approved. The motion was seconded and passed, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion except for the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie.

VIII. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, members of the Board noted that the current meeting was likely to be the last meeting that Nancy would lead as Moderator and thanked her for her leadership and service. Nancy was informed that she would be receiving a memento of her tenure as Moderator.

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:10 a.m.. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

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