

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
held on Saturday, July 25, 2015
at the Charlestown Police Station, Community Room
4901 Post Road
Charlestown RI 02813**

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

Members Absent: Tom Frost

Also in attendance were 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 9:02 a.m..

II. Approval of Minutes

One member of the Board questioned whether the summary of Joe DeMaio's report on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee in the draft minutes of the July 11, 2015 Meeting of the Board of Governors correctly conveyed the sense of the Board as to the appropriate ways to remediate "ponding" and responsibility for the costs thereof. After discussion, a **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes of the July 11, 2015 meeting of the Board of Governors, as presented with the addition of a sentence in the summary of Joe's report to indicate that differing views were expressed. 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, noted that, in accordance with the QCBFD charter, our Annual Meeting would be on Saturday, September 19, this year. This means that the mailing to voters required by our by-laws should be made on or

before Friday, September 4, and that because of the time required to prepare the form of absentee ballots, make copies of various materials, and assemble the packets for mailing, all motions that the Board of Governors wishes to propose to the voters need to be ready for consideration by the Board at its mid-August meeting (or at an additional meeting of the Board that would have to be scheduled shortly thereafter). In addition, all Committee reports and other materials for the packets should be submitted to Tom by the end of August, preferably well in advance of month end. Charlie pointed out that this timing requires his receiving from committee heads their budget proposals for 2016 within the next week so that he can present a proposed District budget for 2016 at the mid-August meeting of the Board.

IV. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Julia Mathews, indicated that tax bills should be going out during the week of July 26 and that the form of the bills has been modified to include additional information. Julia stated that Al Bartosic is working on proposed standardized policies and procedures for the assessment and collection of District taxes. Julia also reminded committee heads that there is no charge for use of the Charlestown police station for committee meetings but that there is a modest charge (\$25) for use of the Grange and that the police station should, therefore, be the preferred location for committee meetings when available.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Finance and Budget. Charlie Freedgood, Commissioner of Finance and Budget, indicated that the proposed policies and procedures mentioned by Julia will provide for separating the responsibility for tax collection from the disbursement of tax revenues. Elaborating on the need to receive proposed budget information from committee heads as soon as possible, Charlie indicated that this was especially true for any committees that might wish to propose expenditures in excess of the amounts budgeted this year.

B. Civic Improvement: Bill Heep, Commissioner of Civic Improvement, reported that he had responded to an inquiry from the Quonnie Golf Committee (not a QCBCFD committee) as to how QCBCFD might use a donation of approximately \$1,000 from the proceeds of the Quonnie Open. Bill stated that after discussing the matter with the Civic Improvement Committee and Shari Frost, Commissioner of Beaches and Dunes, he had responded that the money could be used to expand our beach raking program.

C. Public Works: Wally Kelly, Commissioner of Public Works, indicated that he was exploring alternatives for mitigating the “ponding” problem on Surfside Avenue. Wally stated that he hoped to get a Charlestown official who is knowledgeable about road drainage issues to look at the situation and give his recommendations. Wally then plans to discuss the alternatives and the cost of their implementation with the abutting property owners and to formulate a recommendation for consideration by the Board.

Wally next turned to the proposal to drill a deep test well to explore the possibility of adding another well with lower nitrate levels to our system. He responded to various questions and noted that there could be no guarantee that drilling the proposed test well will be successful in locating a meaningful source of water with lower nitrate levels. He also noted that we could not be certain when or if elevated nitrate levels will become a problem requiring remediation but that the nitrate levels in our system continue to rise. Wally stated that, notwithstanding the uncertainties, he and the Public Works Committee believe that the cost of drilling a test well now is justified in light of the fact that it may be necessary to act quickly if remediation becomes necessary and the estimated cost of integrating a new deep well into our system (approximately \$130,000 in addition to the cost of the test well) is likely to be considerably less than other alternatives, including the installation of a denitrification system. Joe DeMaio reported that the Long Range Planning committee supports the proposal to drill a deep test well. After discussion, a **motion** was made to approve spending up to \$35,000 (actual cost expected to be approximately \$30,000) to drill a deep test well but to defer deciding whether to proceed this year or next until after Charlie reviews funding alternatives. 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).

Charlie stated that he would consider funding alternatives for the test well, including use of our credit facilities, in conjunction with formulating budget proposals for consideration at the Annual Meeting. Maryanne McNee indicated that there would very likely be funds available from merchandise sales to cover part of the cost.

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

V. **Old Business**

The Board agreed by the consensus of those in attendance to change the date of its next meeting from August 15 to August 16. Nancy requested Board members to also keep open August 23 for an additional meeting if one becomes necessary before the Annual Meeting.

VI. New Business

Nancy reported that she has appointed a Nominating Committee in accordance with our by-laws. Committee members are Roy Jacobsen (Chair), Ceil McCulloch, Taylor Rettig and Patti Rueff, The Committee has begun work and expects to have its nominations and recommendations ready prior to the August 16 Board meeting.

VII. Adjournment

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:58 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

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