

**MINUTES  
of the  
87<sup>h</sup> Annual Meeting  
of  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District  
held on  
September 17, 2016  
at the  
Quonochontaug Grange on Route 1 (5662 Post Road)  
in Charlestown, RI**

**I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks**

The Clerk, Tom Wildman, called the 2016 Annual Meeting of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District (QCBFD) to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.. He explained that Nancy Matthews, the Moderator, was unable to be present because she was attending the wedding of a close family member. Tom stated that Nancy had specifically requested that he convey her great regret at not being able to attend the meeting and that he also express her thanks and appreciation for all the help and support she had received as Moderator during the past three years. Noting that Nancy's term as Moderator was ending, Tom reported that the Board of Governors, on behalf of the District, had given Nancy an engraved fire bell as a memento of her service and that Nancy thanked the community for the gift.

For the record, Tom indicated that a quorum was present under the QCBFD By-laws, and he certified that notice of the meeting and the accompanying materials required by the by-laws had been sent to the Eligible Voters.

Tom then led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District. The motion was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy.

**III. Election of New Moderator**

Roy Jacobsen, Chair of the 2016 Nominating Committee, indicated that he had been asked to move the committee's nominee for election as Moderator at this point and that he would present the remainder of the committee's report later in the meeting, as customary. Roy then moved the following resolution, which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy:

*Resolved*, that Randy Thornton be elected as the Moderator of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District for a three year term, commencing upon election.

Randy's election was welcomed with a round of applause. He came forward and was given the gavel.

#### **IV. Remarks of Incoming Moderator**

Randy thanked those present for the opportunity to be of service that they had given him.

He then requested a moment of silence for the following residents who had passed away since the District's last annual meeting: David VanPelt, Brad Gorham, Peg O'Brien, June Wilson and Sydney Schultheis.

Randy invited any new residents in attendance to introduce themselves but there were none.

#### **V. Reports & Proposals of Managers**

Randy pointed out that the various QCBFD Managers appointed by the Board of Governors were listed in the Agenda for the meeting and that reports of certain Managers were included in the packets sent to voters in advance of the meeting. Randy stated that any Manager present could supplement his or her report if he or she so desired and would respond to questions from residents.

Randy then called upon Michele Pallai Reppucci, **Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Monitors**. Michele asked if there were any questions about her report and there were not. She then moved the following resolution, originally proposed by a resident and recommended by the Board of Governors:

*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 by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy.

It was noted that Michele's tenure on the Board of Governors and as Police Liaison was ending and she was given a round of applause in appreciation for her many years of service.

Randy asked whether any of the other Managers wished to comment. None did and there were no questions for any of them.

## **VI. Committee Reports and Motions**

The Moderator noted that written reports of each of QCBFD's four standing Committees had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

Community Property. Bill Heep, Chair of the Community Property Committee, elaborated on certain matters discussed in his report. He noted that trash collection and recycling services have worked well but our current 5-year contract with Ed Palmer Disposal is about to expire and we will need to begin negotiations for a new contract soon. Bill reminded those in attendance that at last year's Annual Meeting we adopted a policy requiring property owners to maintain the unpaved portion of the District rights-of-way adjoining their property free of obstructing trees, shrubbery and other materials that impair safe use of District roads or impede the movement of fire trucks. He thanked residents for their cooperation in adhering to this policy. He also thanked committee members for their contributions.

The Moderator noted that Bill's tenure on the Board of Governors and as a committee head was ending and thanked him for his hard work for the community. Those present showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Public Works. Wally Kelly, Chair of the Public Works Committee, stated that the committee had recommended to the Board of Governors that we put stop signs at locations where QCBFD roads intersect Town of Charlestown roads and that the Board of Governors had endorsed this recommendation. Wally then moved the following resolution, which was seconded and then passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy:

*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.

Wally next stated that the committee is continuing to study the nitrate levels in our water supply and our options if the nitrate levels become too high. Unfortunately, the deep test well that we drilled last year did not succeed in locating a significant source of additional water.

Wally concluded his remarks by urging homeowners to shut off the water in their houses whenever they are going to be away overnight, especially during the winter when pipes are vulnerable to freezing.

The Moderator noted that Wally's tenure on the Board of Governors and as head of the Public Works Committee was ending and thanked Wally for his hard work for the community. Those present showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Finance and Budget. Charlie Freedgood, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, commented on the proposed 2017 budget and noted in particular an anticipated increase in the cost of fire protection services and a proposed reallocation of reserve funds in light of the possibility that the District may be required to expend significant amounts to enhance our water system.

Charlie then moved, one at a time, the following two resolutions, each of which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy:

*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.

*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.

Charlie concluded by thanking the members of his committee.

Long Range Planning. Joe DeMaio, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, indicated that he had nothing to add to his report. The Moderator noted that Joe's tenure on the Board of Governors and as head of the Long Range Planning Committee was ending and thanked Joe for his service to the community. Those present expressed their appreciation with a round of applause

## **VII. Election of Officers, Tax Assessors & Board of Governors**

Roy Jacobsen, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, moved the following resolution which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy:

*Resolved:* that the slate of Officers, Tax Assessors and members of the Board of Governors for the 2016-2017 year proposed by the Nominating Committee be elected.

## **VIII. Update on Fire Contract**

Bill Heep reported that negotiations with Dunn's Corners Fire District for a new contract may be nearing completion. Dunn's Corners is insisting that all fire districts, including QCBFD, that receive fire protection services under contract with Dunn's Corners pay for these services under a uniform methodology that applies the same mil rate to the assessed value of the properties covered. The imposition of this methodology will likely result in a substantial increase in the cost of our fire protection services but Dunn's Corners still remains a low cost provider in comparison with other districts.

## **IX. Ratification of Certain Actions**

The Clerk moved the following resolution which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy:

*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.

## **X. Resident's Proposals**

The Moderator noted that resident Donald MacDougall submitted six motions for consideration at this meeting. These proposals, along with Mr. MacDougall's supporting statements and background materials, were included in the packet of materials sent to voters in advance of the meeting. The Board of Governors considered each of the proposals and recommended voting against all of them for reasons summarized in a statement also included in the packets sent to the voters. Mr. MacDougall has since withdrawn two of his motions (those identified as Motions Nos. 1 & 5 in the materials he submitted) because of further actions of the Board of Governors and the Chair of the Public Works Committee with respect to the subject matter of those proposals. The Moderator announced that voters would now consider the remaining four proposals.

A motion was made to consolidate Mr. MacDougall's four proposals and treat them as a single proposal for deliberation and action. The motion was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy.

Next a motion was made to adopt Mr. MacDougall's four proposals. The motion was seconded but failed to pass by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy.

## **XI. Other Business**

The Moderator asked if there was any other business for consideration. No formal motions were made but residents remarked that it was important that we continue to encourage the involvement of younger people in QCbfd activities and governance. It was also remarked that we all should seek to foster compliance with our beach rules, including those prohibiting dogs on the beach and prohibiting eating and drinking on the

beach. Owners who rent should take responsibility for making their agents and renters aware of these rules.

The Moderator announced that as residents left the meeting, Special Events volunteers would be distributing Daffodil bulbs for planting around QCBFD.

## **XII. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas R. Wildman  
Clerk, Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District