

**MINUTES
of the
88^h Annual Meeting
of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
held on
September 16, 2017
at the Quonochontaug Grange
5662 Post Road (Route 1)
Charlestown, RI 02813**

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The Moderator, Randy Thornton, called the 2017 Annual Meeting of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District (QCBFD) to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. He began the meeting by leading the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Randy then requested a moment of silence for the following residents who had passed away since the District's last annual meeting: Janet Morgan, Tammy Bennett Cotoia, Bob Morello, Douglas and Margaret Ronaldson, and Scott Trautman

Randy next invited any new residents in attendance to stand. Kim and Sherri Purcell introduced themselves and were welcomed with a round of applause.

Before moving on, Randy noted that the Quonochontaug Historical Society now has a room on the lower level of the Grange Hall which those present were invited to visit after the meeting.

II. Confirmation of Quorum & Mailing; Approval of Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting

The Clerk, Tom Wildman, confirmed that a quorum for the meeting was present under the QCBFD by-laws and certified that timely notice of the meeting and the accompanying materials required by the by-laws had been sent to the Eligible Voters.

After asking if there were any questions or comments on the draft minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the District and hearing none, Tom moved that they be accepted and approved as presented. The motion was seconded and passed by the combined vote of

those in attendance or voting by proxy.

III. Reports of Managers

Randy noted that the various QCBFD Managers appointed by the Board of Governors were listed in the Agenda for the meeting and that written reports of several Managers had been included in the packets sent to voters in advance of the meeting and/or posted on the QCBFD website. Randy then invited each of the Managers present to supplement or comment on his or her report if he or she so desired.

Julie Low, Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Monitors; Brewster Blackall, Manager of the QCBFD Marina; and Peter Rettig, Manager of Beach and Dunes, each spoke briefly and thanked the many volunteers who had assisted them during the past year.

Julie also elaborated on the enhanced security measures summarized in her written report and the efforts undertaken to limit use of the QCBFD Beach to residents and their guests. She emphasized the responsibility of each of us to support the rules applicable to use of the beach and to make our guests and renters aware of the rules.

Brewster noted that 125 boats had been stored at the marina at one time during at least part of this season and that we had a clear over-crowding problem. Next year we will have to limit boat stickers to two per household. Brewster emphasized that not everyone can expect to store their boat right at the edge of the water and encouraged the use of wheeled assemblies to easily move boats around the marina.

Peter noted the good condition of the beach and the success of the weekly raking program. The new snow fences have worked very well but have suffered some vandalism. The boardwalk from the parking lot to the beach will be further adjusted and modified to enhance ease of use.

IV. Committee Reports and Motions

The Moderator noted that written reports of each of QCBFD's four standing Committees were included in the packets sent to the voters in advance of the meeting. He asked each Committee Chair to elaborate or comment on his report as he wished.

Community Property. Jim Mara, Chair of the Community Property Committee, noted that the successful negotiation of the new trash collection contract summarized in his report was primarily the work of Bill Heep, the immediate past chair of the Committee. Jim also noted that part of the cost of the sitting wall at the children's playground had been covered by a donation from the Quonnie Open which Jim subtly reminded those

present had been masterfully led by himself. Jim reported that the Committee had tried several different posts for the new street signs and is close to selecting a uniform design that is similar to the old signs but more durable.

Long Range Planning. Tom Farrell, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, updated his Committee's report by advising those present that he, Randy and a number of others from various groups (including Virginia Lee, President of the Charlestown Town Council) had met recently with representatives of the Rhode Island Water Resources Board ("RIWRB") to discuss the possibility of obtaining funding from RIWRB for a potential well field site off of Quonochontaug Neck for the benefit of all on the Neck. The group learned that the only potential, qualifying applicant for such funding would be the town of Charlestown. Tom understands that certain Town residents will work to encourage the Town to pursue this opportunity.

Tom stated that the Long Range Planning Committee will further discuss phragmites remediation during the coming year.

Tom concluded by asking residents to suggest other matters they would like the Committee to consider.

Public Works. Vinny Reppucci, Chair of the Public Works Committee, noted that the Committee had spent considerable time on matters related to our water supply; however, he wanted to be clear that there was no concern about the quality of our water today. It has passed all required tests for contaminants. Nitrates are a possible future problem that we will continue to watch and study. Vinny called attention to the attachment to the Committee's report showing that, while varying seasonally, over-all nitrate levels have remained flat over the last three years.

Water usage is up approximately 20% and the Committee will continue to explore the reasons for this. Leaks and broken pipes are likely a factor. It is strongly recommended that every house have its own internal shutoff valve and that the water be shut off whenever the home is not occupied.

Finance and Budget. Charlie Freedgood, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, briefly reviewed the year to date financial statement and proposed 2018 budget. He noted that, due to the terms of our new fire contract, both projected actual fire protection expense for 2017 and budgeted fire protection expense for 2018 are up significantly. In response to a question about the adequacy of our reserves in the event of a natural disaster, Charlie indicated that, in addition to tapping our reserves in such a situation, we had an established \$500,000 line of credit that could be drawn on and we presumably

would take advantage of any available federal assistance. Charlie also noted that individual homeowners and not the District would be responsible for damage to private property.

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 2018 budget, including an approximate \$294,200 in Tax Revenue (4% above 2017), 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 16, 2017, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable property of said District in the sum of no less than \$293,200 nor greater than \$295,200. 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 2018 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 2018. 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.

V Election of Officers, Tax Assessors & Board of Governors

In the absence of Nancy Matthews, Chair of the Nominating Committee, Kate Thornton 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 2017-2018 year proposed by the Nominating Committee be elected.

VI. Update on Fire Contract

Bill Heep reported that negotiations with Dunn's Corners Fire District for a new 4.5 year contract commencing as of January 1 this year were completed last fall. As had been expected, Dunn's Corners has required 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 mill rate to the assessed value of all properties covered. The imposition of this methodology results in a substantial increase in the cost of our fire protection services but Dunn's Corners still remains the low cost provider in comparison with other providers.

VII. Ratification of Certain Actions

A motion was made to adopt 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.

VIII. Other Business

The Moderator asked if there was any other business for consideration. There was none.

Roy Jacobsen noted that with this meeting Julia Mathews' tenure as Treasurer was ending and we all should thank her for her hard work on behalf of the community. Those present showed their agreement and appreciation with a vigorous round of applause.

IX. 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

