FINAL

MINUTES
of the
92st Annual Meeting
of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
held on
September 18, 2021
Quonochontaug Grange
5662 Post Road.
Charlestown, RI 02813

1. Call to Order /Opening Remarks **Susan Wilson-Perez, Moderator**

The Moderator, Susan Wilson-Perez, called the 2021 Annual Meeting of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District (QCBFD) to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. on the lawn behind the Quonochontaug Grange located at 5662 Post Road in Charlestown, RI.

Sue began by acknowledging that the District relies heavily on volunteers and thanking everyone who had given their time over the last year volunteering. She highlighted the work of Dede Consoli and the Merchandise Sales volunteers who work every Sunday raising money funds for our Special Events and community grants. Sue also commended Ellen Frost on her job chairing Long Range Planning and their work on community visioning and starting to create a comprehensive plan. Sue expressed special thanks on behalf of the District to the following persons who were stepping down from positions of leadership: Vinnie Reppucci, Chair of Public Works and Roberta Peet, Treasurer.

Sue commented that this year has had even bigger challenges than last year's pandemic and lighting strikes. This year's assault on private property rights in the state is very worrisome. There is a movement afoot to abolish communities such as ours.

2. Certification of Mailing & Approval of Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting **Maud Bailey, Clerk**

The Clerk certified that a quorum was present or so represented by proxies and that timely notice of the meeting and the accompanying materials required by the By-Laws had been sent to the known Eligible Voters.

The Clerk asked if there were any questions or comments on the draft minutes of the QCBFD 2020 Annual Meeting. Kate Thornton made the Clerk aware of a spelling error that will be corrected in the Final Version. As there were no further comments, a motion was made that the minutes be accepted with spelling error corrected and approved. The motion was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy.

3. Moderator's Report: **Moderator**

Sue then led the group in reciting the pledge of Allegiance.

Sue requested a moment of silence for the following residents who had passed away since the

District's last annual meeting: Justin Anderson, Mary Ann Tuttle Carley, Melinda Cotter, Betty Jones, Margarethe Kulke, Linda Long, Kay Noonan, Stu Pomeroy, Betsy Sears, Andrew (Andy) F. Sears Sr., Pete Gibbs, and Carol Waterman Sigg.

4. Reports of Managers:
Reports of most QCBFD Managers were included in the packets sent to voters in advance of the Annual Meeting (please see attached). Any other reports of Managers were put on the QCBFD website as received. During this portion of the meeting, Managers or their representatives will respond to questions.

Merchandise Sales	**Dede Consoli**
Beach and Dunes	**Peter Rettig**
Police Liaison & Beach/Boating Monitors	**Julie Low**
Special Events	**Elaine Heilemann**
QCBFD Boating	**Bob Frazier**
Ball Field and Playground	**Matt DeFusco**
Tennis	**Mark McEnroe**
Webmaster	**Betty Wilson**
Email Blast Coordinator	**Kate Thornton**

Sue asked the community if anyone had any questions for any of the Managers. No questions were asked.

5. Reports & Proposals of Standing Committees

Sue reported that reports of all QCBFD standing Committee Chairs were included in the packets sent to voters in advance of the Annual Meeting (please see attached). During this portion of the meeting, Sue opened up the floor to residents to ask questions to the Committee Chairs or their representatives.

Community Property:	**Julia Mathews**
Long Range Planning	**Ellen Frost**
Public Works:	**Vinnie Reppucci**
Finance and Budget:	**Al Bartosic**

No questions were asked. Sue then handed the meeting over to Al Bartosic, Finance and Budget Chair for his report and motions.

Finance and Budget: **Al Bartosic**

Al asked for any questions concerning the budget, there being none. Al then moved, one at a time, the following resolutions, each of which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. All motions passed unanimously.

Proposed Motions:

> ***Resolved***, that the 2022 budget as presented at the District Meeting on September 18th, 2021, including an approximate $412,000 in Tax Revenue (9.8% above 2021), as approved by the Board of Governors, be adopted.
>
> ***Resolved***, that the electors of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District qualified to vote at the District Meeting legally assembled on September 18th, 2021, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable property of said District in the sum of no less than $411,000 nor greater than $413,000. Said tax is for ordinary expenses and charges for the interest and indebtedness in whole or in part of said District and for 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 2022 at 12:00 noon based upon December 31st, 2021 assessed values as computed by the town of Charlestown, according to the law, an 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 2022. 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 dates shall carry interest until collected at a penalty rate of 12% per annum upon such unpaid taxes.

6. New Business

Sue introduced Tom Frost to present on behalf of outgoing Public Works Chair Vinnie Reppucci, the first items of new business, "Report on water system upgrade as mandated by the Rhode Island Department of Health ("RIDOH")

Tom led the discussion by reminding the community that Vinny had held a ZOOM community meeting that addressed the issues concerning the water treatment project and our plans to address the issue. Tom highlighted that Vinny's report on the water treatment plans were part of the Annual Meeting packet that was mailed out prior to this meeting. He asked if there were any questions as to the report. As no questions were asked Tom moved the following resolution:

> *Resolved, that a 4-log disinfection system RIDOH compliant upgrade to the District water system, as mandated by the RIDOH, utilizing project modifications as deemed necessary by the DOH and other technical factors no greater than $1,600,000 be approved by the District with the Board of Governors having authority to modify the plans as necessary. Final financing terms and lender(s) shall be subject to the approval of the majority of the Board of Governors. In addition, as part of the financing for the Water Project, the Board of Governors may decide to refinance and consolidate the existing water loan on the balance sheet of the District in the amount of no greater than $65,000. The Board of Governors may delegate the authority to negotiate and*

execute such loans to the person or person(s) approved by the majority of the Board of Governors.

Following the discussion, the motion was voted on and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motion passed with one vote against.

Maud Bailey, Clerk then led the second item of new business the "By-Law change on default method of Annual Meeting Packet Delivery to electronic delivery." She briefly laid out the reasons for the By-Law change (time savings, cost, and paper waste) and asked if there were any questions. As no questions were asked Maud moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the draft of the amended and restated Article 3, Section 6 and Article 3, Section 12 of the by-laws of Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District recommended for adoption by the Board of Governors of the District, and distributed to the voters of the District for review in advance of the District's 2021 Annual Meeting, as part of the materials mailed with the notice of such meeting (Exhibit D of packet), are hereby adopted as the Amended and Restated By-Laws of the District, such adoption to be effective upon adjournment of such Annual Meeting.

The resolution was seconded, no discussion ensued and the motion passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the Agenda was the Resident's Motion (Exhibit E of packet) submitted pursuant to Article 3, Section 5 of the BY-LAWS of the QUONOCHONTAUG CENTRAL BEACH FIRE DISTRICT (As amended and restated on September 19, 2015). By unanimous vote (at the 8/14/21 meeting), the Board of Governors' opposed this motion.

Resident Donna Kelly made the following resident's motion:

During the off-season when there is no guard at the QCBFD beach parking lot, the gate is to be left open and anyone can access the QCBFD Beach parking lot.

The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. There were speakers both for and against the motion. During the discussion there was a motion to amend the original motion from, "*During the off-season when there is no guard at the QCBFD beach parking lot, the gate is to* ***be left open*** *and anyone can access the QCBFD Beach parking lot"* to "*During the off-season when there is no guard at the QCBFD beach parking lot, the gate is* ***to remain closed but unlocked*** *and anyone can access the QCBFD Beach parking lot."* No one seconded this amendment. Motion to close discussion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The original motion which had been seconded was presented for a vote. The motion failed to pass by a majority of the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy.

7. Legal Resolution Sue made the following Legal Resolution which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motions passed unanimously.

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 Fire District.

8. Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers, Tax Assessors and Board of Governors
Mark Alprin

Mark began by thanking the members of his committee, Mary Duffy and Katherine Huntington for serving on the committee this summer. He noted and apologized that Tiffany Van Elslander was inadvertently left off the slate for the Public Works Committee. Mark then read the slate (please see attached) and made the following resolution, which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motion was passed unanimously.

Resolved, That the slate of Officers, Tax Assessors and members of the Board of Governors for the 2021-2022 year proposed by the Nominating Committee be elected.

9. Other Business **Moderator**

The meeting will consider any other business that may come before it. In that regard, Article 3, Section 7 of our By-Laws provides that "Any Eligible Voter may make a new motion at the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting which shall be submitted in writing and may be seconded, ruled in order, discussed and voted upon. However, to be passed the number of votes necessary for approval of the motion shall be not less than sixty-five percent (65%) of those voting at the meeting in person or by proxy.

Kate Thorton asked for an update on the Thompsen forbearance agreement voted on at the 2018 Annual Meeting where the Thompsen property is to be absorbed into the Central Beach Fire District. Sue responded that there is no update to report. Maud Bailey would like the Board of Governors to follow up on any By-Law changes that would allow for hybrid virtual Annual Meetings because they allow for more access and be more inclusive.

10. Adjournment
Maud Bailey made a motion to adjourn at 11:08am. The motion which was seconded and passed by the combined vote of those in attendance or voting by proxy. The motion was passed unanimously.