

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District Board of Governors  
9:00am, August, 27, 2022  
Quonochontaug Grange  
(Downstairs)  
5662 Post Road.  
Charlestown, RI 02813**

**Members in attendance:** Al Bartosic, Dede Consoli, Ellen Frost, Bob Frazier, Fred Newton, Susan Wilson-Perez, Maud Bailey, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, and Carollynne Weidler

Members absent: Julia Mathews

Also in attendance were Chris Harris, Assistant Clerk, Peter Rettig, Manager of Beach and Dunes, and members of the public

**1. Call to order**

**Moderator, Susan Wilson- Perez**

The Moderator, Susan Wilson Perez, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 am. As this being her last regular BoG Meeting as Moderator, Sue thanked everyone for all their hard work over the last three years.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Maud Bailey, Clerk**

One edit was made to the draft minutes of the BoG meeting dated 7/23/22 and 3 edits were made to the 8/13/22 BoG Meeting Minutes that were both distributed prior to the meeting. The Clerk stated that she will amend the draft minutes of 8/13/22 to reflect that the only action taken during the executive session was to approve the minutes of the prior executive session on 7/23/22. A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes as amended for both the of the BoG's meetings dated July, 23, 2022 and August 13, 2022.

The **motion** was **seconded** and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie). Next the Clerk asked for any comments to the Draft 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes and none were offered.

After a brief discussion concerning the procedure to receive proxies for the 2022 Annual Meeting, a Motion to require Eligible Voters to return their proxies by either regular mail to the Clerk, dropped off at the Clerk's address or by scan and email to [QCBFD2022annualmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:QCBFD2022annualmeeting@gmail.com), in each case to be received no later than September 17th by 7:00am.

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

**3. Treasurer's Report**

**Treasurer, Carollynne Weidler**

Carollynne updated the BoG noting that over \$160,000 of taxes have been received as of this meeting. Carollynne informed the Board that Steve Piccolo has paid for his portion of the garbage can bill. Still waiting on his insurance certificate, and she confirmed he has been notified that we need it.

**4. Nominations Report**

**Katherine Huntington**

Katherine reported on and read the 2022-23 QCBFD slate (see attached). After some discussion, a **motion** was made to accept the slate to be presented for vote at the 2022 QCBFD Annual Meeting. There was some discussion as to being aware that the large size of some of the OMA governed committees makes achieving a quorum more challenging and that allowing them to get smaller through attrition is a consideration.

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

**5. Moderator's Report**

**Moderator, Sue Wilson-Perez**

Annual Meeting Motions. Sue said she will defer the financial motions to AI and began her report discussing the possible motion concerning Golf Carts (Located in the Agenda under item 7 (b) Police Liaison). Annual Meeting Motions. Sue said she will defer the financial motions to AI and began her report discussing the possible motion

concerning Golf Carts (Located in the Agenda under item 7 (b) Police Liaison). Ron Ruel introduced the issue to the BoG and had drafted a proposed motion to help the community deal with the issues golf carts have presented this year. Sue then reported to the BoG that our Lawyer suggested we confer with our Insurance provider concerning possible liabilities issues. Our insurance provider was unavailable by this meeting. She felt this should be tabled pending further research. Ron said he will work on safety and education and Sue thanked him for his efforts.

Sue then asked Maud to read the legal resolution that the community will vote on at the Annual Meeting:

**Resolved**, that all prior actions of the Board of Governors and Officers of the Fire District taken prior hereto in the operation of the Fire District's business or in the furtherance thereof are hereby ratified and confirmed and all documents executed on behalf of and in the name of the Fire District are hereby adopted and consented to by a majority vote of the electors voting at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

A **motion** was made to approve and put forth this Legal Resolution to vote at the 2022 Annual Meeting. The **motion** was **seconded** and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Sue then led a discussion on the beach etiquette motion made and passed at the last meeting. After further thought and discussion she decided to withdraw the beach etiquette motion. A **motion** was made to void the vote on beach etiquette and "ghost towning" issue.

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

#### 5. Committee Chair Reports:

##### A. Public Works

**Bob Frazier**

Bob started by reporting that PW had passed a motion to create an approval process for residents who would like to make improvements on District property or right of way adjacent to their property. He made a **motion** for the BoG to approve the **motion** and have it presented to the District for vote during the 2022 Annual Meeting:

**Resolved**, Lot owners must submit in writing to the Public Works Committee for approval plans for any improvements to QCBFD property or QCBFD right-of-way adjoining such lot owner's property.

After some discussion, the **motion** was **seconded** and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Bob then reported on the contract negotiations with NWSI and that the PW committee approved the new 3-year contract. Bob presented the following **motion**:

To recommend QCBFD approve the operating contract dated July 11, 2022 with NWSI for 3 years' subject to the following conditions:

- 1) NWSI provide the maintenance schedule going forward
- 2) NWSI provide its existing protocol regarding alerts and alarm responses going forward
- 3) NWSI provide the RMS data summary and underlying data (formatted in Excel) in its possession into a shared file
- 4) NWSI provide its FastField reports
- 5) the above will be supplied by October 1, 2022 for past data and then either monthly or quarterly (as agreed) going forward

After some discussion concerning the conditions and public bidding protocols and voting procedures, the **motion** was **seconded** and **passed** with Al Bartosic, Ellen Frost, Bob Frazier, Fred Newton, Julie Low, and Carollyne

Weidler in favor and Maud Bailey and Dede Consoli against (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Al requested a copy of the signed contract for the District's files.

## B. Finance

**Al Bartosic**

Al reported that the final budget was sent to all BoG. There was some discussion regarding an additional motion concerning last year's water system upgrade motion and it was decided that Sue will confer with Peter Ruggiero to see if it is necessary. Sue made the **motion** to present the following resolution to the District for vote at the 2022 Annual Meeting if our counsel felt it necessary. The draft resolution was:

**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 which was approved by the District at the 2021 Annual Meeting with the Board of Governors having authority to modify the plans as necessary, may be carried over and continue being implemented during the 2022 and 2023 budget year(s). 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 \$49,000. 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.

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

Al then made the following **motions** for BoG approval so that the resolutions can be voted on by the District at the Annual Meeting:

[Budget] **Resolved**, that the 2023 budget as presented at the District Meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, including an approximate \$563,266 in Tax Revenue (36.7% above 2022), as approved by the Board of Governors, be adopted.

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

[Tax] **Resolved**, that the electors of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District qualified to vote at the District Meeting legally assembled on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable property of said District in the sum of no less than \$562,000 nor greater than \$564,000. 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023 at 12:00 noon based upon December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 assessed values as computed by the town of Charlestown, 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2023. 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

## C. Long Range Planning

**Ellen Frost**

Ellen updated the BoG on recent Comprehensive Plan work. She wanted the BoG to be aware of the updated themes and that the themes will be posted for comment at the Annual Meeting as was done last year.

## 7. Managers Reports:

### a. Merchandise Sales

**Dede Consoli**

Dede reported on grants requests submitted and then Dede made a motion for the Bog to approve the following grants:

- \$1,500 for Documentarian project support (coding and scanning documents) submitted by M. Bailey
- \$1,100 for additional speed signs submitted by Julie Low
- \$500 to repair swings at playground submitted by Dede Consoli

Julie made the **motion** to approve these grants. It was **seconded** and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Dede then gave the BoG an update on Merchandise Sales.

### b. The Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Gate Monitors:

**Julie Low**

Julie updated the BoG. Julie told the Board how much she enjoyed being on the BoG. The Board thanked Julie for all her hard work and service in her role.

### c. Beach and Dunes

**Peter Rettig**

Peter made a quick report that he had researched URI faculty and had made an introduction through another Quonnie resident. He will be following up in September when people are back on campus. Ellen requested that LRP and the new Beach and Dunes Manager also be involved. Peter said of course they will be involved. This was also Peter's last BoG meeting as Manager—he was thanked for all his work.

## 8. Adjournment.

Julie Low made a **motion** to adjourn. It was **seconded** and **passed** with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Respectfully Submitted,

Maud Bailey, Clerk  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District