

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District
Board of Governors
9:00 a.m., October 12, 2019
Charlestown Police Station, 4901 Old Post Road
Charlestown, RI 02813**

Members in Attendance: Al Bartosic, Dede Consoli, Tom Farrell, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, Roberta Peet, Vinny Reppucci, Sue Wilson-Perez

Members Absent: Maud Bailey, Fred Newton

Also in attendance were members of the public and Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk

1. Call to Order:

The moderator, Sue Wilson-Perez, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Regarding the Open Meetings Act, Sue said there were some issues about whether people can dial in or not dial in to meetings so she requested that all questions from Committees that are subject to the OMA be directed to her. She will read the regulation and come up with a decision. A member of the public asked what the rule is regarding electronic communication and Sue read the following:

“Discussions of a public body via electronic communication, including telephonic communication and telephone conferencing, shall be permitted only to schedule a meeting. Provided, further however, that a member of a public body may participate by use of electronic communication or telephonic communication while on active duty in the armed services of the United States.”

2. Approval of Minutes:

A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes of the September 14, 2019 meeting of the Board of Governors. 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).

3. Review of Proposed Meetings calendar of 2020

A list of the 2019 Board of Governors' meetings was presented, with the first one starting in May. It was decided that maybe we should have meetings spread out a little more over the year. The Moderator, Sue Wilson-Perez, will be in touch with members regarding 2020 dates and let Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk, know.

4. Treasurer's Report

Roberta Peet, Treasurer, noted that all taxes, except \$2,300 have been received.

5. Moderator's Report

Sue wanted to bring everybody up to speed about conversations she's had with Mike Divney regarding the Thomsen forbearance issue. Mike wanted to make sure our surveyor was engaged in what the Thomsen surveyor was doing. The Moderator discussed the need to have the CBFD survey amended once the Thomsen property becomes part of the District so all records are properly updated and recorded. Regarding legal fees, Sue said those incurred prior to the forbearance agreement are the responsibility of Central Beach, and fees going forward involving the execution of the agreement are the Thomsen's responsibility.

6. Managers' Reports

a. Merchandise Sales: Dede Consoli noted that she had a list of requests for funds from various managers. Since no decisions have yet been made, she proposed that she and her treasurer, Kathy Alperin, consider each request, make a decision and that prior to any dispersal of funds, communicate their decision to Sue Wilson-Perez, Moderator of the Board of Governors.

A **motion** was made that the Board of Governors will allow Dede Consoli, Manager of Merchandise Sales and Kathy Alperin, Assistant Treasurer for Special Events/Merchandise Sales, to receive, evaluate and make decisions about expenditure-of-funds requests, but prior to dispersal of any funds, they will discuss their decisions with the Moderator of the Board of Governors. 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).

Requests Dede has already received included the following and she acknowledged there could be more:

Peter Rettig, Manager of Beach and Dunes - \$4,000 for new gravel at beach, 1 or 2 new benches at beach and a new bench on the block.

Mark McEnroe, Manager of Tennis - \$1,000 to be combined with \$1,200 from last year to fix broken flag pole, repair water fountain, add additional gravel to lot and flat top the arborvitaes. There are cracks now in the courts that will probably require a sizable amount of money to fix in the near future.

Bob Frazier, Manager of Marina - \$3,000 to finish up needed work at the boat landing.

Kate Thornton, E-mail Blast Coordinator - \$500 for Long Range Planning to digitize records

Roy Jacobsen - \$3,000 to repair and install new grass at the playground

If anyone else has any other projects in the community, please contact Dede Consoli directly.

Dede also said some monies have been reserved for a Quonnie Anniversary Party July 18, 2020 which would include catering and possibly a band. The Moderator reminded all that we are required to put out to bid all jobs over \$5,000.

b. Beach and Dunes: Peter Rettig, Manager, was not present.

c. Beach Gate Monitors: Julie Low said we would have a guard at the beach on a trial basis - just weekends in July. He will log any issues, confrontations and then we will decide whether to go forth in August. She suggested that members of the Board ask the kids on the block how it is going and generally support them in their job. They now have clipboards with names and lot numbers and do a good job of checking people in and out. There was some discussion about skim boards being dangerous if the beach is crowded and that resulted in the following motion:

A **motion** was made to add No Skim Boards to our present beach rules. 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).

Following that vote a member of the public said that since a lot of kids use skim boards, perhaps we could amend the motion so as not to outlaw skim boarding altogether. It was noted that often if we just ask the kids to move down the beach when it is crowded, they comply.

An **amended motion** was made to add No Skim Boards If Swimmers are Present into our beach rules. The amended 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).

d. Special Events: Elaine Heilemann and Tina Cassidy were not present but Dede Consoli noted they are busy planning the previously mentioned Quonnie Anniversary party as well as other fun events.

e. Boating: Julie Low, reporting for Bob Frazier, Manager of the Marina who was not present, said he is assessing the area and considering moving non-stickered boats so we would not need another kayak rack. He is also thinking of reinstating a fee for boat stickers.

7. Committee Chairs' Reports:

a. Public Works: Vinny Reppucci thanked Tom Frost for representing Public Works at the Annual Meeting in his absence and then gave us a water update. Last time we had a water sample done at the end of September it came back negative for the 2 wells but Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) would not take us off the Boil Water Advisory until the wells are rehabilitated. Well #2 was acid washed and chlorinated and that will be done Tuesday to Well #1. Well #2 has high iron levels so residents may see some discoloration in the water while it is in use. During this time we will still be on a Boil Water Advisory. Hopefully our water samples after this will continue to be negative.

Vinny said he and his Committee are working hard on a long term plan to solve our water issues. Options for long term disinfection according to RIDOH seem to be limited to chlorination. An issue with our system makes design of a chlorine system interesting. One major issue is Well #2 has a lot of iron, and since chlorine precipitates the iron, that will have to be filtered which may mean we have to enlarge the pump house area. RIDOH mandates the amount of chlorine in the water so that will require constant monitoring. Vinny asked if we could get a temporary system to get off the Boil Water Advisory or put chlorine in and RIDOH said no, that would give people a false sense of security. Ideally he'd like to get off Boil Water Advisory next month and have engineers come up with a plan.

In terms of cost, Vinny passed out an Expense Report he had prepared. He explained that those items in bold have been paid, in italics are projected costs and plain type have not been paid. Northeast Water Systems Inc. (NWSI) has charged us approximately \$9,000 for sampling, outside visits, reports, etc. The Board of Governors had given Public Works \$20,000. Two engineering consultants (C&E and VBS) have been paid \$3,800 and \$3,500 respectively and Asa Hoxie has been paid \$1,500 for putting cameras in the wells.

At its September 14, 2019 meeting the Board of Governors authorized Public Works to spend up to \$32,000 for lot clearing (\$12,000) and well rehabilitation (\$12,500). Russell is doing the well work. Pruitt is doing tree clearing and is doing very good work. Once the area is cleared they can measure and get another quote for clean fill. Silt has been recommended instead of clay. Of the \$32,000, about \$25,000 has been quoted. NWSI will probably need another \$10,000 through October. Al Bartosic said that for 2019 we have \$58,000 accrued and a contingency of another \$15,000 so based on Vinny's numbers we are about \$10,000 away from using all of that up.

Vinny's main goal is to get off the Boil Water Advisory. In order to do that we will have to have 3 consecutive negative samples from both wells and distribution. When the wells were put in they were 150 feet from surface water. DEM has reclassified one of the swamps as surface water and that is 130 feet from Well #1 so it now considers our wells to be Under the Influence of Surface Water. We have 2 options: accept it or fight it. If Under the Influence we would have to go to a 4-Log chlorination system. Additionally, we have to filter the water before it is disinfected. If we choose to fight it we will have to have a Filter Micro Particulate Analysis in order to determine if there is a low or high probability our wells are Under the Influence of Surface Water. We have already started this process. Because we have had a Level 2 assessment, if we have a positive coliform reading within 12 months, it will trigger a second Level 2 assessment, which may lead to a mandatory force of a 4-Log disinfection system (chlorine). Vinny said they are working on the assumption that eventually we'll have to go to a chlorine system. Engineers will look at the hydrology, then develop a system for either 4-Log disinfection or 4-Log and surface water. Ultimately Vinny said they would love to do a hybrid. We may have some latitude with RIDOH.

Someone asked how much this could all cost and Vinny's estimate is probably not more than \$250,000. To fund that, we could do a one-time assessment on residents or take out a loan.

Vinny then thanked his committee members for all their hard work.

b. Community Property: Julia Mathews first thanked Vinny for all he has done regarding his detailed e-mails keeping us informed and then turned to trash pick up. E-Z waste will finish their contract on December 2, 2019. Julia has been taking bids from trash haulers and decided the best price was from Steve Piccolo and Son. In July and August he will pick up our trash on Mondays and Fridays; the rest of the year he will pick up on Mondays for \$68,000 and can start January 2020. He will contract with individuals for December 2019 for \$30 if anyone is interested.

A **motion** was made that we accept a 3-year contract from Steve Piccolo & Son Trash Disposal for \$68,000/year. 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).

The second topic is the maintenance of community property. Julia agreed with the Moderator that each manager should put jobs out to bid to ensure we get the best price and that we coordinate some

jobs with other managers. When each committee has an ad hoc thing to do there should be some freedom to put it out to bid. Managers and Committee Chairs should keep Julia in the loop.

A discussion followed regarding spreading out our BoG meetings and possibly having one in January rather than waiting til May. Sue Wilson-Perez will look at dates and let everyone know.

c. Finance and Budget: Al Bartosic thought it would be good to get a better handle on sinking funds and asset replacement issues. Every Manager/Committee should be brainstorming about their assets they have stewardship over and what their wish lists are. For example, Tennis courts are going to need to be resurfaced and we will need to budget for that or we will need a sinking fund. It would be a good idea to let Finance know your needs before August.

Al's other topic was insurance as some were wondering if we could have a claim for the wells but it turns out we don't think we can. Al talked with John Lathrop who said it would be a good idea to do a comprehensive review of what we are/are not insured for. Vinny said we are insured for real property but that does not include wells. Sue is going to ask Fig Newton, an ad hoc member of the Board of Governors, to look into all of this. Al said one of his new committee members has some insurance experience so he will also reach out to him.

d. Long Range Planning: Tom Farrell has been looking into Fire District records retention and what the State regulations are for that. He has previously asked for funding which has now been reduced. He was talking about clerk documents, executive committee meetings, Board of Governors documents, Fresh Pond documents, mapping project. Some documents have already been scanned and uploaded into Sugar Sync.

Secondly he and his committee are looking at the question of utility-line burial as a project with a goal of reporting to the community at the next annual meeting.

8. Adjournment

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:50 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District