

Approved

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District  
Board of Governors  
held on Saturday, August 24, 2019  
at the Charlestown Police Station Community Room  
4901 Old Post Road, Charlestown RI 02813**

**Members in Attendance:** Al Bartosic, Brewster Blackall, Tom Farrell, Tom Frost, Julie Low, Julia Mathews, Roberta Peet, Vinny Reppucci, Randy Thornton and Tom Wildman

**Members Absent:** None

Also in attendance were Peter Rettig, Manager of Beach and Dunes; Susan Wales, Manager of Tennis; Sally Devin, Assistant Clerk; and members of the public.

**1. Call to Order**

The Moderator, Randy Thornton, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:03 a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A **motion** was made to approve the draft minutes of the August 10, 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. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Roberta Peet, reported that the 2019 District property tax bills have been sent out and that the taxes are due on September 13.

**4. Report of Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Gate Monitors**

The Police Liaison & Manager of Beach Gate Monitors, Julie Low, recalled that the Board had discussed at prior meetings problems with (a) outsiders parking at the tennis courts or along the side of roads at construction sites or other spots and then walking to the beach and (b) people eating and drinking on the beach in violation of District rules. At its last meeting the Board discussed a suggestion that we hire a professional uniformed guard to help alleviate these problems during busy times, and Julie agreed to formulate a specific proposal to employ such a guard during part of next season as a trial. Julie then reviewed a proposal to hire NESCTC Security Agency to provide a guard during what are expected to be busy times next July at a cost of approximately \$1,500. This guard would be identified by wearing a shirt with "Security" on it and

would both patrol designated areas for unauthorized parking and periodically walk the beach, speaking to those violating beach rules. During discussion of this proposal, it was remarked that, in order to evaluate effectiveness, we should ask both our regular block and boat landing monitors and the proposed guard, if hired, to keep a log of instances in which each identifies and stops or attempts to stop violations. After discussion, a **motion** was made to approve the proposal to hire a professional guard for a trial period. The motion was seconded and **passed**, with all members of the Board of Governors in attendance voting in favor of the motion, other than (1) the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie, and (2) Tom Frost, who voted against the motion.

## **5. Committee Chairs' Reports**

a. The Chair of the Public Works Committee, Vinny Reppucci, reviewed the recent series of unfavorable water test results that we received and reported to residents in e-mail communications. As a result of these tests, the District was required by the RI Department of Health (RIDOH) to issue a Boil Water Advisory. This advisory remains in effect and will likely continue for at least another week. The underlying cause of our water quality problems is likely attributable to a rising water table caused by the number of heavy rain falls we have had. The higher water table is vulnerable to contamination from bird and animal remains and fecal droppings. Because of repeated test results showing total coliform (TC) in wells #1 & 2 and E-coli bacteria (EC) in well #2, we underwent a Level 2 Assessment by RIDOH. The preliminary results of this assessment were received during the evening of August 23, and the Public Works Committee held an emergency meeting on the morning of August 24 to discuss the findings and the steps that need to be taken. Vinny indicated that we have already isolated well #2 (which continues to show the presence of E-coli) from the rest of the system and well #2 will remain isolated until it is free of E-coli in 3 successive tests. We will at once begin major vegetation clearance around our wells and post no trespassing signs around them and in the well field indicating that the areas are water supply areas. Furthermore, if we sustain positive TC and EC samples which would trigger a second Level 2 assessment within the next 12 months that are not attributable to a specific, correctable cause (such as a broken pipe) we will then be mandated by RIDOH to install a "4 log" disinfection system. 4 log disinfection systems are designed to clear 99.99% of any pathogens (bacteria, parasites and viruses) within the source water—in this case, our well water. Given our recent experience, Vinny believes it is possible that we will be required to install a 4 log system. A very preliminary guess/estimate of the cost of installing such a system (which is not currently budgeted) is in the \$100,000 to \$125,000 range.

During discussion it was asked how we would pay for the as-of-yet undetermined total costs of any required improvements to our water system. Al Bartosic indicated that to the extent our reserves are not sufficient to cover such costs, we may draw on our \$500,000 revolving line of credit.

Following discussion, Vinny made a **motion** that the Public Works Committee be authorized to spend up to \$20,000 to immediately initiate development and design of 4 log water disinfection systems which would satisfy RIDOH requirements and to prepare for installation if required.

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).

b. The Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, Al Bartosic, reviewed the Committee's proposed 2020 budget. The budget includes a 20.2% increase in property taxes necessitated by a substantial increase in the amount budgeted for trash and recycling pickups, along with smaller increases for security and fire protection, and the need to continue to build reserves. Given the possibility of our being required to make substantial further expenditures for improvements to our water system, the Committee thinks that we should maintain total reserves of about \$100,000.

After discussion, Al made a **motion** to approve the proposed 2020 budget and recommend its adoption by the QCBFD voters as follows:

**Resolved**, that the 2020 budget, including an approximate \$367, 900 in Tax Revenue (20.2% above 2019), 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 of the motion (other than the Moderator, who under the District's By-Laws only votes in the case of a tie).

Al made a further **motion** to approve the following tax resolution and recommend its adoption by the QCBFD voters:

**Resolved**, that the electors of the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District qualified to vote in the District Meeting legally assembled on September 14, 2019, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable property of said District in the sum of no less than \$366,900 nor greater than \$368,900. 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 2020 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 2020. 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.

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).

**6. Adjournment.**

A **Motion** was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas R. Wildman, Clerk  
Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District