



# BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT

Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882

*Established 1932*

**Council & Budget Meeting: Bonnet Shores Fire District Council**  
**130 Bonnet Shores Road, Narragansett, RI 02882 – And Zoom**  
**Saturday May 4, 2024**  
**8:30am**

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:37am. Council members in attendance included Chair Carol O'Donnell, Vice Chair Marlene Bellini, Anthony DeAngelis, Steve Danuszar and Bill DelGizzo. Additional present included District Manager Mark Gillooly, Tax Collector John Chereskin, Treasurer Laurie McCarthy and Clerk Stephanie Caldwell.

## **Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence**

## **Urgent Business – None**

## **Announcements, Clarification:**

Chair O'Donnell announced the following; our annual to be held, with or without a new charter proposal, adding residents to the voting roles, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Council was served a lawsuit from Lloyd Albert, Dale & Nancy Cordy, Raymond & Rosemary Pariseault, Gordon & Katarina Wrin and Robert & Mary Burke Patterson on January 16, 2024 demanding a special meeting be held immediately, an election, disenfranchising taxpayers who are not residents. The complaint was heard before Judge Taft-Carter on February 16, 2024, she did not order the special meeting. The lawsuit was continued to April 12, 2024 at 9:00am at the Washington County Court House. At that time, the Petition for Writ of Mandamus, as prayed, is denied by Judge Taft-Carter.

The legal memo from the Fire District attorney is included in this agenda.

Kelly Beach: The sand has been replaced and spread, per CRMC, by the Bonnet Shores Beach Club. They will continue to maintain our beach.

May 15<sup>th</sup> to be monthly meeting

**All BSFD official district information is available at [bonnetshores.org](http://bonnetshores.org).**

## **Approval of minutes: None**

## **Treasurer:**

Laurie shared her report which included: The paypal account has been activated for camp registration only at this time. \$375.00 total donations from the Ferri family to the camp program.

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## **Tax Collector:**

John shared his report which included: The fiscal year-end report as of 30<sup>th</sup> April, contains 76 delinquents of which 59 are over \$10.00. The 3<sup>rd</sup> round of delinquent notices was sent out 3<sup>rd</sup> April. BSFD holds tax sales every other year, while the town of Narragansett holds their tax sale in the month of October. It's suggested to hold ours following theirs. The council members agree at this time John may share the delinquent list with council members and BSFD staff to help reach out to anyone on the list they may know. Concerning the 9 BSFD properties the town is filing foreclosure on, he has been told there are no action items to be taken by the district to protect liability. For a BSFD tax sale to occur this October, the process should begin in July. Total value of properties eligible for tax sale this October is roughly \$14,000. Bill asks if tax bills have been updated to include email addresses, John reports that is a work in progress.

## **Land Trust: None**

## **District Manager Update:**

Mark shared highlights from his report. Topics include his request that this year BSFD switches to a Saturday yard waste dumpster that is delivered at 7am and picked up by 3pm. He also makes the recommendation to have that dumpster available weekly on Saturdays. Reason being, over the past few seasons the yard waste dumpster has been a bulky pick up is Sat July 27<sup>th</sup>. The BSFD yard sale is the Sat before, July 20<sup>th</sup>. There is ongoing exterior maintenance at the CC.

## **Nomination Committee Report:**

Nancy Cordy shared her report. The Nominating Committee had an organizational meeting on 4/24. Linda was asked to create an email address for the committee which has been done; a link on the website is available now for information and application submission for positions available for election at the Annual Meeting. All positions are open, including the 7 council seats, tax collector, treasurer and clerk. Next Nomination Committee meeting is May 10<sup>th</sup>. Nancy asks the council to clearly state who is a qualified voter in this upcoming election. Carol replies that the letter from the attorney reflecting the judge's ruling, states the district is adding the residents to the nonresident property owners as the qualified voting body. There is a discussion about this letter and its interpretation of the most recent judge's ruling about the qualified voters. The discussion ends with the understanding that the qualified voter list is to be composed of residents who are registered voters as of 30 days prior to the meeting (per state law) and nonresident property owners who have deeded rights at least 90 days prior to the meeting (per the bylaws).

Mark comments that he has been working with the Nomination Committee to make the Community Center available as needed.

## **Clerk:**

Stephanie Caldwell shares that the Annual Meeting will be held in the hall of Saint Veronica's Chapel, as the state has used this facility for this district's voting location as well.

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## **New Business:**

### **1. Appoint two members of the council to sit on the Nominating Committee**

There is a discussion about the need for 2 council members to be appointed to the Nomination Committee. 3 council members would like to be appointed. They are Bill DeGizzo, Marlene Bellini and Carolyn DiLeo (who is not present).

Steve made a motion to appoint Bill, Carol seconds the motions, passes unanimously.

Steve made a motion to appoint Marlene, Carol seconds, Bill is a nay citing the fact that she served on it last time, passes Marlene abstains, motion passes 3-1.

Bill made a motion to appoint Carolyn, Anthony seconds, the motion fails with 2 yays.

### **2. The Charter Commission has requested the House of Representatives and the Senate for the second time, place their Charter change proposal (eliminating tax payers and only including residents) into bill form and be presented before the General Assembly. Would the Council support this action or not?**

Marlene made a motion to table item #2 of new business, seconded by Steve, motion passes unanimously.

### **3. Working Budget Review.**

Operating and Capital Budget Review. Laurie reviewed the fiscal year 2023-2024 report with the council

## **Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned at 10:51am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Caldwell