

BSFD TAX ASSESSOR MEETING

August 14, 2024 at 11:00 am

Community Center

Meeting Minutes

The BSFD TAX ASSESSOR meeting was held at 11:00 am on August 14, 2024. In attendance were Nancy Cordy, Denise Sellon and Katarina Wrin.

Agenda

- Call meeting to order
- Take attendance
- Establish a recorder for the meeting minutes
- Share procedure that established the Qualified Voter List including the information provided by the Tax Collector
- Review the Voter List presented to the Tax Assessors by the Tax Collector
- Motion, Discussion and Vote to accept the Qualified Voter List

Procedure that established the Qualified Voter List

The three Tax Assessors were elected at the last FD Annual Meeting on June 24, 2021.

We read the FD Charter and Bylaws to familiarize ourselves with our duties and responsibilities. See FD Bylaws: Article I, Section 6 and Article III, Section 6.

Since we were elected in 2021, there have been lawsuits, judge's rulings, a Consent Judgement and opposing legal opinions by Council-hired attorneys, all having to do with the voting rights in the BSFD.

The Tax Assessors were tasked to certify a Qualified Voter List. Given all of the above-mentioned information and the conflicting opinions, we asked the current Council in June, July and August of this year to provide us with independent legal counsel to help us do our job correctly. We were denied each time.

On 8/6/24, the Tax Collector presented us with:

- Narragansett Tax Rolls
- Voter List from the Narragansett Board of Canvassers
- Walk-In Registration Forms

In the process of doing our job, we were pressured by the Council Chair to “certify” a voter list within 24 hours of receiving data from the Tax Collector. Nowhere in the Charter/Bylaws is this timeline stated. More recently, we were threatened with possible litigation by the Council Chair and attorney Dickinson if we did not approve the Qualified Voter List as they directed.

In a closed Executive Session of the 8/8/24 FD Special Meeting, Atty. Dickinson tried to intimidate the Tax Assessors by insinuating we violated OMA rules. As Tax Assessors, we are part of the FD, elected by the people and should be supported by the Council.

Based on all the available information and in trying to do what is legal and constitutional, we examined, assessed and certified a Qualified Voter List on 8/6/24 for the upcoming BSFD Annual Meeting and Election to the best of our ability. Our certified voting list consists of residents who are domiciled in Bonnet Shores and are eligible to vote in the town of Narragansett (the legal minimum). This is intended as an interim measure for this election only until a revised Charter is approved and the pool of eligible voters can be expanded to include part-time residents.

**On 8/8/24, a revision was made to eliminate a name/address that was not located in the FD. The revised Qualified Voter List has been made available.

Review the Voter List presented to the Tax Assessors by the Tax Collector

- The tax assessors reviewed the voter list presented by the Tax Collector.

Motion, Discussion and Vote to accept the Qualified Voter List

- Nancy Cordy introduced a motion to accept this Qualified Voter List that consists of residents domiciled in Bonnet Shores and eligible to vote in the town of Narragansett (the legal minimum) as an interim measure for this election only
 - Denise Sellon seconded the motion
 - The motion passed 3-0.

The minutes were reviewed and have been ratified by the Tax Assessors on August 14, 2024. Denise Sellon made a motion to accept the minutes, Katarina Wrin seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0 at 11:15 am .

Nancy Cordy made a motion to adjourn the meeting 11:16, Katarina Wrin seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.