

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BUTTONWOODS FIRE DISTRICT

June 27, 2006

Buttonwoods Casino

8:00p.m.

The 81st Annual Meeting of the Buttonwoods Fire District was called to order at 8:08 p.m. Moderator, Mr. Mark McKenney presided.

He offered a warm welcome to the new members of the Community –Segal / Gertz-Seymour, Harrington / Hall, Horton, and O’Sullivan.

Mr. McKenney also reminded the group of the ground rules of the Annual Meeting, and that we hold the meeting primarily to establish the budget, but that the discussion of other issues is welcome.

Reading of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting:

Mr. McKenney called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (2005) that had been available to all taxpayers of the Fire District in advance, and that the reading of the minutes be waived. The reading of the minutes was waived.

John Farrell made a motion to make changes to the 2005 minutes, primarily around wording and the correction of incorrect dates for officer elections. The minutes were amended and corrected.

Motion to accept corrected minutes passed.

Reports of Buttonwood Fire District Officers

Mr. McKenney called for the reports of the Officers and Supervisors.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Joe Suffredini reported that the opening balance was \$147,156. Expenses for the Roads, Casino, and Seawall were reviewed. Ending balance is \$147,898. We have a Road Reserve of \$34,892, primarily carried over from the prior year. We have a Casino Reserve of \$15,868. He noted that \$30,175 had been carried over from the prior year and then spent in entirety on the stripping and painting of the building. We have a Seawall Reserve of \$40,000. The total unallocated reserve as of May 31, 2006 is \$90,760. Motion passed to accept report as is.

Tax Assessor's Report:

Mr. Farrell noted that the report had been distributed in advance and thus made brief comments on the report. He noted that the Tax Rate determined by the Board of Tax Assessors for 2005/2006 was \$1.17 per \$1,000.00 of real estate and that there was a slight increase in the total valuation of Fire District real estate.

The Chapel, the Buttonwoods Fire District (BFD), and the Buttonwoods Beach Association (BBA) are exempt from taxation by the BFD. The BFD and the BBA are subject to Warwick City taxes

whereas the Chapel is not. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.

Tax Collector's Report:

Mr. Farrell reported that the total taxes collected through May 31, 2006 were \$83,489. In addition \$1,127 were collected between May 31 and the June 27 meeting. He also noted that there were essentially no unpaid taxes – the first time in his memory. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.

Auditor's Report:

Mr. Alibrandi presented the Auditors report noting to the group that he thoroughly reviewed the financial procedures and policies with the Treasurer, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector and Casino Committee Treasurer. He felt confident that they are very qualified and conscientious in the handling of the Fire District's money. He noted that he was comfortable with how refunds are handled and with the policies of the Casino committee. After no questions there was a motion to adopt the report. The motion was accepted.

Clerk's Report:

Patricia Wegrzyn reported that she received no correspondence during the year.

Supervisors' Report:

Senior Supervisor, Sharon Fitzgerald, presented her report. She started by thanking Peter Dorsey for his continued leadership on the sewer project and Joe Suffredini for not only his role as treasurer but also for the additional tasks that he takes on.

She noted that the results of the gas survey did not produce enough support to justify the project from the Gas Company's perspective. Sharon then commented on the fields/paths, mosquitoes/ticks, trees, road/signs and drains. Thanks were given to Don Watson for filling pot-holes and to Bob Remick for painting speed bumps. She noted that the speed bumps will be reconstructed upon completion of the sewer project.

It was noted that Kathy Falaguerra and Claire Flaherty had put together a fabulous summer program and that Dave Falaguerra and Patty Charland had overseen the completion of the paint job and many additional improvements to the Casino itself. The sprinkler system is now fully operational.

Sharon lastly thanks all of the residents who contribute to the beauty and safety of the neighborhood.

With no questions, the report was accepted as submitted.

Peter Dorsey then gave an update on the sewers noting that the pipe laying should be done by the fall and that the last step is the pumping

station. He reminded the group that the paving was a temporary cap and that the final coat would be laid next Spring.

Mr. Farrell asked about the pumping station, which is expected to be underground and will have a diesel back up (not gas).

Mr. Remick asked about water pipes. The Water Dept wants to lay new pipes and it is hopeful that this can be done before the final paving.

Mrs. Goldstein asked about the debris on Buttonwoods Ave. Rocchio's contract states that they keep materials on site during the project but that they restore the neighborhood to the condition it was in prior to the project.

Mr. Alibrandi asked about sewer billing. The latest estimate is \$54 / foot and will be assessed on the owners' longest running footage.

Mr. Farrell asked about mandatory tie-in. Tie-in is mandatory within a year of completion unless the owner recently put in a new septic system, which will enable an extension.

Several residents asked about paving. Mr. Dorsey noted that the contract requires that the roads be returned to the status they were in at the start of the project. He will continue to work with Rocchio but reminded the group that it is subject to interpretation. It was noted

that we have \$35,000 - \$40,000 in our Road escrow as a backup to the work done by the City.

A round of applause for Peter Dorsey followed the update.

Reports of BFD Committees

Casino Committee:

Kathy Falguarra started her report by thanking MaryAnn McKenney for her 20 years as Bowling Chairperson. Doug Rademacher will be the new chair.

Barbara and Bill McCarty are still responsible for rentals and Mr. Conti will return as steward.

She thanked the many volunteers for helping with the Casino clean-up.

Planned events include the 4th of July celebration (with a route change due to the sewer project), cocktails on the Point on July 28th, Bowling and Beers on July 13th, and the Steak Fry on September 3rd.

The report of the Casino Committee was accepted.

Casino Preservation Committee:

David Falaguerra noted that the Committee has completed several

major projects since it's inception in 2000: a new roof, a major electrical overhaul, the sprinkler / fire alarm system and the restoration of the Cooper Avenue louver. In 2005 / 2006 the sprinkler system was completed and the exterior was completely painted.

There are no major projects scheduled for 2006/2007 but once sewers are complete sidewalk and landscape improvements will continue.

There is \$16,000 in the Restoration Account and the Committee has submitted a request for a \$6,000 appropriation in the budget.

Mr. Alibrandi asked about a safe place for records storage. Mark McKenney noted the fire proof filing cabinet in the Chapel was used for this purpose. It was noted that the cabinet was not yet full but that at some point we might look into scanning and filing documents electronically.

The report was accepted as submitted.

Tennis Committee – Reported by Ray Way

Ray noted that the clay courts had new tapes and that vines had been cleared from the fence. Rocchio will repair the damage to the hard courts, which now have new trash containers and new stones.

The treasury contains approximately \$5,000, which will be used for

kids programs, repairs, landscaping and new bubblers.

Ray noted that the Pay 'n Play date had not yet been set.

With no questions the report was accepted as given.

Reports of Other Community Committees (non BFD)

Buttonwood Beach Association:

Mark McKenney noted for the group the continuity of the Beach Association Board vs. the planned turnover of the Fire District Board. He also reminded the group that there are very little in cash assets (approximately \$37,000) and that the value is in the common land, which is not for sale as the tax status depends on this requirement. As such, to maintain its private nature the BBA must assert it's property rights and can't let things "just happen" on the land. Permission must be requested to use BBA property.

Without questions the report was accepted.

Buttonwood Chapel Committee:

Kathy Gilman reported that the season started in April with the Annual Egg Hunt. The Annual Music program in June featured the North Kingstown Players. The remaining schedule was set with the

annual Youth Service (July 23rd), the Annual Appeal in the Fall, and the Christmas/Hanukah Service in December.

She gave the group an update on the successful Adopt a Chair program and noted that there are still 35 chairs that could be repaired in honor of a deceased loved one, family member, or event.

Buttonwood Garden Club:

Karen Way noted that the Garden Club was operating informally this year and was focused on summer “maintenance” activities, which include: the entrance, the hanging pots on the porch, and the Memorial Garden at the Chapel..

She commented on the Cocktail Classic, the 4th of July Bake sale and possibly a new resident tour of selected gardens within Buttonwoods.

She noted that the Garden Club is no longer affiliated with the RI Federation of Garden Clubs. The Club is looking for new leadership from the community and due to the informal structure, no dues will be collected this year.

Without questions the report was accepted.

Mark McKenney then thanked the committee chairs for their reports and the group gave them a round of applause.

Reading of Communications:

There were no communications.

Old Business:

There was no unfinished business from the 2005 meeting.

New Business:

Budget Presentation and Resolution 2006 - 2007

Judy Taton presented the 2006 budget and resolution, which called for a total budget of \$83,674 - approximately \$300 less than the prior year. Categories discussed were Casino, Grounds, Insurance, Misc., Roads, Taxes, Tennis, and Waterfront. Most of the proposed budgets were consistent with the 2005-2006 spending with a few exceptions. The first item noted was the \$6,000 for Casino Operating Expenses – a significant reduction from the prior year but back to normal levels following the significant investments made over the past few years. The \$2,500 in Field Cutting is down from the prior year but does include the Spring and Fall clean-up. The Paving budget is proposed at \$5,000 to accommodate work that will not be undertaken by Rocchio (primarily Promenade). Finally, \$5,000 was allotted for Snow Plowing, reflecting the past 3 year average.

A 5 minute recess was taken.

Budget Acceptance and Resolution:

The budget was then accepted. Three resolutions were read by Mr. Farrell - Budget Resolution for \$83,674, Tax Resolution and the Tax Anticipation Borrowing Resolution - not to exceed \$20,000 (authorization for Treasurer to borrow funds).

All three resolutions were approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Peter Dorsey

The following names are hereby placed in nomination for the offices and terms stated:

For Supervisors, for a three year term, from this date to the BFD annual meeting three years hence in June, 2009 – Ken Mason.

For one year terms, from this date to the BFD annual meeting in 2007:

For Moderator – Mark McKenney

For Clerk – Patricia Wegrzyn

For Treasurer – Joseph Suffredini

For Tax Assessors – John Farrell, David Dickerman, Steven Marcks

For Tax Collector – John Farrell

For Auditor – Victor Alibrandi

Accepted as above. Next year Sharon Fitzgerald will chair the Nominating Committee for 2007.

Election of Officers and Supervisors: Mark McKenney

Board of Supervisors: Judy Taton - Sr. Supervisor

Robert Remick – Supervisor

Ken Mason - New Supervisor

Ratification of Acts of Officers and Supervisors:

The Officers will be as above. All were elected and the Clerk cast a single ballot for the slate. The motion passed. The ratification of the acts of the officers was passed.

Miscellaneous:

Judy Taton presented Sharon Fitzgerald with a gift as thanks for her years as Supervisor.

Call for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn accepted. The meeting adjourned at 9:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Wegrzyn