

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BUTTONWOODS FIRE DISTRICT
June 23, 2009
Buttonwoods Casino

The 84th Annual Meeting of the Buttonwoods Fire District was called to order at 8:01 p.m. Moderator, Mr. Mark McKenney presided.

He offered a warm welcome to the new members of the community – Alyson McGregor & Eric Goede, John Plummer & Marina Vaks, Joe Jolls & Denice Riberdy, Tory & Bridget McAvoy-Williams, and Daniel Steinberg & Kimberli Diemert. In addition, Mark welcomed Ruth Orton and Polly O'Toole back to the neighborhood.

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 2008 Annual Meeting:

Mr. McKenney called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (2008) 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. Mr. Dickerman noted that there was an error in the minutes and made a motion to correct the Treasurer's Report section to reflect that "the total unallocated reserve as of May 31, 2008 is \$31,581."

Motion to accept amended 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 \$86,672. Expenses for the Roads, Casino, and Seawall were reviewed. Ending balance is \$93,337. The Casino Reserve is at \$6,937. The Roads Reserve is at \$2,900. The Landscaping Reserve is at \$4,094 and the Seawall Reserve is at \$48,500. The total unallocated reserve as of May 31, 2009 is \$30,906, down slightly from the prior year but still good. Motion passed to accept report as is.

Tax Assessor's Report:

Mr. Farrell noted the Tax Rate determined by the Board of Tax Assessors for 2008/2009 was \$0.97 per \$1,000.00 of 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, 2009 were \$89,288. In addition \$263 was collected between June 1 and June 23. He also noted that there was only \$687 in un-paid taxes related to a foreclosure property. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.

Auditor's Report:

Mr. Alibrandi noted that he had thoroughly reviewed the financial procedures and policies and reports with the Treasurer, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector and Casino Committee Treasurer. He acknowledged that they are qualified and conscientious in handling the Fire District's money and that the reports present a true picture of the community's financial condition. After no questions there was a motion to adopt the report. The motion was accepted.

Supervisors' Report:

Senior Supervisor, Ken Mason, presented his report and noted that it was a fairly uneventful year but did mention the following projects:

- A multi-year tree maintenance and replacement program has begun. Thanks to Karen Way and Bill Ross for their guidance.
- A significant leak in the Casino roof was repaired.
- There is a new backboard at the basketball courts.
- The Casino front door has new safety glass and was painted by Sam Nash.
- The clogged drain line on Claflin was replaced but still needs a touch up.
- Thanks should be given to Joe Suffredini for his tireless efforts to sign a maintenance contract for service of the Casino sprinkler system. Our new CINTAS contract is a fixed cost and now reduces the high risk of emergency service and costly repairs due to a regular maintenance schedule.
- The following unfinished items will continue over the next year: New signage, the Chapel sidewalk replacement, and an on-going dispute with the Warwick Sewer Authority over assessment fees.

At the completion of the report Ken responded to the following questions.

- Ray Way asked about the Chapel sidewalk and Ken noted that the committee attempted to mimic the sidewalks on Bellevue Ave in Newport, but apparently the environment is different from Newport therefore the top 2 inches will be replaced with concrete.
- Doug Rademacher asked for details on the Sewer issue. Ken explained that the agreement signed with the Sewer Authority exempted the undeveloped property of assessments. Legal counsel has been retained as there is a dispute between the Sewer Authority and their charter with Warwick as the City claims the Authority overstepped their bounds when they awarded the deferment in perpetuity. Ken noted that the assessments were zeroed out in the latest billing but the perpetuity is uncertain.
- Kathy Falaguerra noted that there were drainage issues and changes since the sewer installation and asked how we address this. Ken noted that the contracts with Rocchio and the Sewer Authority are closed so any remaining critical issues fall to the Fire District.

Following the questions, the report was accepted as submitted.

Reports of BFD Committees

Casino Committee:

Kathy Falaguerra reported that Mr. Conti is back for his 10th year as Steward. He will be assisted by Anson Dorsey and Veronica Flaherty. Thanks to Lee Mason for chairing the Casino Classic, to Maria Elena Blanchard for the hanging baskets on the porch and to Robin Ross for managing the Casino bookings.

2009 activities will include bowling, tennis, and arts and crafts. Events will include the traditional Fourth of July celebration, Bowling and Beers night, Adult Cocktails on the Point, and the annual Steak Fry.

The report of the Casino Committee was accepted.

Tennis Committee:

Ray Way reported that the clay courts are open and that Sunday round robin matches are under way. The Tennis Committee is again subsidizing the children and adult tennis lessons organized by the Casino committee. 2008 donations totaled approximately \$1,250. This money was spent on renovations of the Casino benches, maintenance of the clay court watering system, landscaping and replacement of flower baskets. Ray noted that more children are playing and Bill Ross asked what residents do when they see a non-resident playing on the playground or clay courts. Ray suggested that the person be asked if they are a resident. If they are not a resident kindly ask them to leave upon completion of the game. Bill asked about liability if a non-resident were to get hurt. Mark McKenney noted that we are covered subject to our deductible.

Reports of Other Community Committees (non BFD)

Buttonwood Beach Association – Hope Dillon:

She reminded the group that the BBA represents the shareholder residents of Buttonwoods with an eye toward preserving the unique character of the neighborhood. Shares are available for \$50 to all property holders who are full time residents with more than two years in duration.

There have been several recent requests by home owners to the effects of improvements on BBA property or contiguous property by some home owners. The BBA is generally favorably disposed to individual home owners wishing to improve their property and often the BBA owned land as well. Those wishing to make improvements must contact the BBA in writing and all contiguous neighbors must approve of the proposed changes in writing in advance of the request.

The following issues were noted:

- A proposal from Verizon to erect a tower in the parklands was tabled as there would be unfavorable tax implications for the community.
- The bylaws of the BBA include a three foot vertical rule which was established to retain views and to maintain good neighborly relations. The BBA hopes that the installation of fences – wooden or otherwise would conform to neighbors' desires.
- The ongoing negotiations with the Sewer Authority regarding the aforementioned waived assessments.

Bob Remick asked about the enforcement of the three foot rule. Hope described the rule that was enacted in 1945 that essentially says no fence or natural wall of a height of three feet or more should be erected without written permission. Mark McKenney noted that the BBA doesn't have the resources to devote to the enforcement of the rule. In the past neighbors have generally worked out issues and that most people are reasonable.

Following the questions the report was accepted.

Buttonwood Chapel Committee:

Kathy Gilman reported that the chapel is 126 years old this year. It's totally self supporting and depends on the generosity of the Buttonwoods residents.

2009 events include: Egg Hunt, Summer Youth Service, a September event and a Holiday Service in December.

Mark McKenney thanked Kathy and noted that the folks giving reports are doing an immense amount of work on behalf of the community as asked for a round of applause for the group.

Reading of Communications: - There were no communications in 2008 / 2009.

New Business:

Budget Presentation and Resolution 2009 - 2010

Deb Taylor presented the 2009 budget and resolution, which called for a total budget of \$92,741 – an increase of 3.6% vs. the prior year. Most of the proposed budgets were consistent with the 2008-2009 spending with a few exceptions. The Casino Operating Expense budget has been increased due to the CINTAS contract. The Drainage and Catch Basin budget was increased and is the line item where the Clafin Road drain work will be charged to. The Pot Holes budget was questioned as too low but Joe Suffredini noted that there is funding in the Roads reserve for pot hole repairs.

A 5 minute recess was taken.

Budget Acceptance and Resolution:

The budget was then voted on, and accepted. Three resolutions were read by Mr. Farrell - Budget Resolution for \$92,741, 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: Bob Remick

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, 2012 – Dave Tremblay.

For one year terms, from this date to the BFD annual meeting in 2010:

For Moderator – Mark McKenney

For Clerk – Patricia Wegrzyn McGreen

For Treasurer – Joseph Suffredini

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

For Tax Collector – John Farrell

Accepted as above. Ken Mason will chair the Nominating Committee for 2010.

Election of Officers and Supervisors: Mark McKenney

Board of Supervisors: Deb Taylor - Sr. Supervisor

William Foley - Supervisor

Dave Tremblay – 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.

Mark McKenney thanked Ken Mason for his three years as Supervisor and Deb Taylor presented Ken with a gift certificate. Lastly, Ken presented Joe Suffredini with a gift certificate in thanks for his efforts and dedication.

Call for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn accepted. The meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Wegrzyn McGreen