

WEEKAPAUG FIRE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 30, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Moderator Frank Kinney. Those in attendance were Frank Kinney, Tom Dwyer, Dan Richards, Peter Seidenberg and Emily Mugge, officers of the Weekapaug Fire District; Members-at-Large attending were Carol Carmody, Amy Carvell, Gale Hunt, Sue Lester, Susie Mackay and Jim Maynard; Commissioners attending were Howard Hyde, Wes Sparks and Scott Wakeman. Also attending were former Moderator Doug Randall, and, for the WFC presentation: Gina Breakstone, WFC Chair, Hank White, Landscape Architect, Mike Sands, Sue DiLoreto and Geren Fauth, Trustees.

Frank opened the meeting by thanking Doug Randall for his hard work as Moderator of the WFD for the past two years.

The Minutes of the June 28, 2014 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Richards handed out an example of the new financial reporting forms required by the State of Rhode Island for all small Fire Districts. WFD is designated as a tier III Fire District based on the level of taxes collected each year. As a tier III Fire District, WFD will submit unaudited reports.

The WFD must file reports certifying the District's tax base, providing the budget for the fiscal year, and tracking actuals against budget on

a quarterly basis.

The WFD financials are on budget as of July 31.

Tax Assessor's Report: Peter reported that \$230K or 70% of all of the taxes assessed (\$331K) for this fiscal year has been collected.

Commissioners' Reports:

Beach: Scott Wakeman reported that Beach Commission expenses came in on budget this year. The WFD bought a new rescue board. The lifeguards did a great job. Scott thanked Tom Galluscio for doing a great job of overseeing the lifeguards.

The 2 most troublesome issues this summer were trash on the beach and dogs. Both issues will be addressed through increased communications to residents throughout the upcoming year.

Public Safety: Wes Sparks agreed that dogs are a problem. Wes congratulated the WFC for insisting that all dogs at the Innlet be on a leash. The WFD enforces the Town of Westerly's ordinances for dogs on our private roads. In addition, Wes recommended that contractors not be allowed to bring dogs to a job site within the District.

It was suggested that the WFD expand the hours that guards patrol the beaches next summer in order to keep dogs off the beaches.

Wes reported that Public Safety was on or below budget. Wes also congratulated Tom G. for doing a great job managing the security guards.

Public Works: Howard reported that the Public Works Commission has spent only a small portion of its budget for the year, then added that a lot of work needs to be done in the Fall.

Road quality continues to be a major issue.

Howard proposed that Chapman Road from Noyes Neck to Meadow be made into a one way street for safety reasons.

Winona and Fenway Roads are scheduled to be repaired by the Town of Westerly this year, but Howard doesn't have a target date from the town.

Frank reported that he met with Michele Buck, Westerly's Town Manager, and Dick Smith to discuss the decaying state of roads in Weekapaug.

The WFD will keep the Inn Beach open for residents for the next 2 weekends (Sept. 5 and 6, 13 and 14). Security and lifeguards will be on duty. The Fenway will be closed; no guards will be on duty there.

Misquamicut Fire Department: Frank met with the MFD's Moderator. A new contract for fire services is being negotiated.

OLD BUSINESS:

WFC Inlet Project: Gina, Chair of the WFC, thanked the community for its support of the project. Hank White walked the WFD through revised plans which emphasized safety, low cost maintenance, improved appearance and operational efficiencies. Hank thanked the WFD for our time and attention.

The WFD discussed the updated plans. The revised plans addressed

all but one of the previous concerns directed to the WFC by the WFD. The remaining concern is planting trees at the corner of Knowles and Wawaloam and along Wawaloam. The trees could diminish oceans views of our residents and street visibility.

After considerable discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed that:

the WFD approves the project to improve the Innlet as designed without the trees.

Further, if any material changes in the plan occur from this date forward, including those from regulatory agencies, then the WFC must come back to the WFD for approval.

In addition, alternatives to the trees must be subject to review and approval by the WFD.

Finally, the WFD retains the right to make changes to the plan that the District deems to be important to the community as construction moves forward.

In addition, it was suggested that the WFD work with the WFC to define the long term operating relationship between the two groups. Frank will work with Deming and Gina to get an operating agreement in place.

New Security/Public Works Vehicle. The current Dodge truck is at the end of its useful life. Tom Galluscio and Tom Dwyer have been researching vehicles and analyzing the purchase of used vs. new trucks. They proposed purchasing a new truck which would have an expected useful life of 30 years.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the WFD purchase a truck costing no more than \$35K and subject to the approval of Howard Hyde and Tom Dwyer.

Used Boston Whaler for Pond Security. The current Pond Security boat is old and coming to the end of its useful life next year. The WFD is looking for a used Boston Whaler 15 to 17 Montauk.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal for New Committee Structure. Frank outlined critical issues facing the community at this time: Financial Security, Public Safety, Infrastructure and Community Awareness. Frank proposed that we create groups led by members of the WFD Executive Committee to address these and other issues as they arise. In the discussion following, there was agreement that this new structure would be an effective way to move forward. Frank asked the Executive Committee members to volunteer to either lead or join one of these groups.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on November 29 at 8:00 AM in the Weekapaug Fire District Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Emily M. Mugge

Secretary