

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
MISQUAMICUT FIRE DISTRICT
HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011

The Annual Meeting of the Misquamicut Fire District was held at the St. Clare Parish Center, 62 Crandall Avenue, Misquamicut, Rhode Island on Saturday, June 11, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. Written notification was provided by posting in three (3) locations within the District, by direct mail, and by notice in The Westerly Sun, a local newspaper publication.

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Moderator Cornelius B. Collins at 10:03 a.m. Officers present at the meeting were the Moderator, Cornelius B. Collins, the District Clerk, Dianne Vumback, the Tax Collector, Mary Delisio, the Treasurer, William T. Sisco, the Assessor, Steven Pont, Members at Large, Michelle Vacca and Frances Myszka, Fire Chief Louis I. Misto, III, and the District Solicitor, John P. Toscano, Jr., Esq. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed for all deceased Fire District residents, namely Philip Cannon and George Minck.

Dianne Vumback, District Clerk, read the Call of the Meeting. A copy of the Notice of Annual Meeting is attached hereto and made a part hereof. Moderator Collins introduced all Fire District Officers and the Fire District Solicitor.

Upon motion, and duly seconded, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 2010 Annual Meeting and to accept said minutes, it was unanimously

VOTED: To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 2010 Annual Meeting and to accept said minutes.

Under **Agenda Item 6**, Moderator Collins requested William Sisco, Treasurer to give a review of 2010/2011 Financials, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Treasurer William Sisco discussed that the total current assets are at \$339,000, with \$140,000 in reserve. Total fixed assets are at \$1,084,000. The district paid off the mortgage on Second Street at a total of \$156,000 and are no longer in debt to anyone. It was stated that the district was in good financial shape – with a total income of \$670,000 as of June 5, 2011.

Under **Agenda Item 7**, Moderator Collins requested Officer Reports. Attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes are the following reports:

- *Fire Chief-Fire Department
- *Moderator Cornelius B. Collins

Fire Chief, Louis Misto, reported on 100 calls; 14 work parties; and 22 training sessions. The fire station was updated with a remodeled bathroom and spare room. All old records of the fire department were updated. The fire department received an additional \$28,000 from grants and donations – at no cost to the taxpayers – to be used in addition to the \$25,000 boat budget approved two years ago by the taxpayers. The Fire Chief thanked all members of the department and their spouses

for their dedication. In closing, the Fire Chief reminded taxpayers to number their houses and mailboxes and to be sure contact information is updated and on file.

Neil Collins asked for the 2011 Newsletter be accepted as the Moderator's report.

Upon motion made and duly seconded to accept the Moderator's report as presented, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the 2011 Newsletter as the Moderator's report.

Mr. Collins concluded with a discussion of a newspaper report of the town moving forward with the requirement to replace all cesspools and non-conforming septic systems along beach area.

Under **Agenda Item 8**, Moderator Collins requested Committee Reports. Attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes are the following reports:

****Firemen's Incentive Report****
****Salary Compensation Report****

Michelle Vacca discussed the approval by the taxpayers of the firemen's incentive increase at last year's annual meeting. She also talked about the need for volunteers on this committee and advised that they will meet in August.

Fire Chief Misto asked Philip Panciera to come up and accept the Edward T. Morezone Service Award. Phil has been a member of the Fire Department for 53 years. During his service, he has attended every meeting and attends most trainings. He currently serves as the Station Engineer.

Jim Culyer presented the findings of the Salary Compensation Committee. This committee was formed at last year's annual meeting. Jim discussed the process the committee went through in determining the proposed listing of salary recommendations. The process included reviewing the current administrative structure, comparing it to other fire districts in the local area, reviewing job descriptions and current salaries and making recommendations. He concluded by stating that Misquamicut Fire District is a unique district, and thanking the board for the opportunity to serve on this committee. He states that the board now has a basis for further review.

Upon motion made and duly seconded to accept the Salary Compensation Committee's recommended actions, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Salary Compensation Committee's recommended actions.

Discussion followed with questions and statements coming from the floor.

Upon motion made and duly seconded to accept the Salary Compensation Committee's salary increase recommendations, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Salary Compensation Committee's salary increase recommendations.

Agenda Item 9, Proposed 2011-2012 Budget, was presented by Moderator Collins, who addressed the body with his report, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Moderator Cornelius Collins begins his presentation by stating the mortgages are paid off, as is the fire truck. Most of the district revenues are from taxes paid. The district gains \$85,000 through the Weekapaug contract and \$45,000 in beach revenues. He requests a motion from the floor to increase salaries per Salary Compensation Committee report and previous motion from taxpayers to accept recommendations.

Upon motion made and duly seconded to increase salaries budget line item by \$1,800.00, it was unanimously

VOTED: To increase salaries budget line item by \$1,800.00

Next the Moderator discussed the increase in the beach operation, namely in additional salaries (supervisors) which will total about \$6,000. He discussed nominal increases in fire department operations in the form of the firemen's incentive program and fuel. Mr. Collins requests an increase in storm damage funds and sinking fund so the district will have money if needed for septic systems.

Discussion follows with questions and statements from the floor. Point of discussion revolves around classification of "storm damage" and "sinking fund". Additionally, a discussion ensues about the "cesspool act".

Upon motion made and duly seconded that the \$10,000 in storm damage fund be reclassified and put into a special fund for septic systems designated for Lawton Avenue and then storm damage becomes \$20,000, it was

VOTED: To reclassify the \$10,000 in storm damage and put the money into a special fund for septic systems designated for Lawton Avenue and then storm damage fund becomes \$20,000.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, to accept the 2011-2012 Budget, as amended, it was

VOTED: To accept the 2011-2012 Budget as amended.

Under **Agenda Item 10**, the 2011 Gerard Nardone Annual Service to Misquamicut Fire District Award - there will be no award recipient of the 2011 Gerard Nardone Award. A reminder was given that nomination forms for this award can be found online and sent in at anytime.

Agenda Item 11, Beach Parking Fees for 2011-2012 was discussed by Moderator Neil Collins. The fees were set at \$200 seasonal/\$75 for weekly. He asks for a motion from the floor to accept.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, to accept the parking fees at \$200 seasonal and \$75 weekly, it was *

VOTED: to accept the proposed parking fees of \$200/seasonal and \$75/weekly.

*A question came from the floor inquiring what the \$200 parking fee goes to. Since a motion was on the floor, the vote continued and further discussion followed.

A motion was made to ban smoking on the beach. This motion was held until appropriate time during the meeting.

Agenda Item 12, Formation of New Committees, Moderator Collins expressed desire to create two new committees for coming year: New Fire Truck Committee and Building Renovation Committee. He respectfully asks taxpayers to consider serving on a committee and if they are interested to inform either Fire Chief Misto or himself.

Nominations and elections of officers, **Agenda Item 13**, then came up on the agenda. Solicitor John Toscano explains the need for an election for the positions of Members at Large and the procedure for it. He then placed the following names into nomination:

Cornelius B. Collins for Moderator. Dianne Vumback for Clerk. Louis I. Misto, III for Fire Chief. Mary Delisio for Tax Collector. William T. Sisco for Treasurer. Michelle Vacca for Assessor. John P. Toscano, Jr. for Solicitor.

There being no other names placed in nomination from the floor for these positions, and based on a voice vote to approve re-election, it was unanimously

VOTED: That all above mentioned candidates are re-elected to office for another term.

Since there are 2 or more candidates for the two open positions of Members at Large, there will be an election next Saturday, June 18, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The following candidates spoke before the body: Frances Myszka, Russell Ryan and Douglas Turnberg.

Agenda Item 14, Miscellaneous, Moderator Neil Collins discussed the Weekapaug Contract, Emergency access passes, Trolley in Misquamicut and downtown Westerly, 2012 Nardone Award reminder, and the information sent home via mail (attached hereto and made a part of these minutes). He concluded with a discussion regarding the Weekapaug Bridge. Fire Chief Misto stated the bridge will be closed mid-September and the project should be completed by next Spring.

The Moderator asked for a motion to hold the next annual meeting at St. Clare's Parish Center. Upon motion made and duly seconded, to have the 2012 Annual Meeting at St. Clare's Parish Center, it was unanimously

VOTED: To hold the MFD 2012 Annual Meeting at St. Clare's Parish Center.

Under **Agenda Item 15**, the following District Resolutions were read by Ms. Vumback:

1. Noise Resolution
2. Zoning Resolution
3. Liquor License Resolution
4. Tax Resolution

Upon motion made and seconded to approve all Resolutions as read, there being no discussion, upon a show of hands, all Resolutions were approved as read.

The previous discussion regarding smoking on the beach was brought forward again. After a lengthy discussion over health concerns and practices to eliminate smoking at area beaches, a motion was made to ban smoking from MFD beaches and boardwalks, it was unanimously

VOTED: to ban smoking from the MFD beaches and boardwalks.

Fire Chief Misto closes the meeting by thanking Steve Pont for his years of service on the board. He also gives a reminder to shut water main off if you close your house for the winter and to be a good neighbor in terms of chimineas and outdoor fires.

Discussion over the boat ended the meeting.

The Moderator then entertained a motion to recess the meeting until the election on June 18, 2011. Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting is hereby held.

RECESSED.

A true copy, attest:

Dianne T. Vumback,
MFD District Clerk