

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE**  
**MISQUAMICUT FIRE DISTRICT**  
**HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007**

The Annual Meeting of the Misquamicut Fire District was held at the Misquamicut Fire Station, 65 Crandall Avenue, Misquamicut, Rhode Island on Saturday, June 9, 2007 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 10:00 a.m. Officers present at the meeting were the Moderator, Cornelius B. Collins, the Tax Collector, Mary Delisio, the Treasurer, William T. Sisco, the Assessor, Steven Pont, Members at Large, Michelle Vacca and Thomas McLaughlin, 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.

Standing in for the absent District Clerk, Donna M. Chiaradio 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, and explained that Diane Vumback, the District Clerk could not be present for the meeting in that she was taking a certification test.

Upon motion made by Edward Morenzoni, and duly seconded by Walter Olender, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 10, 2006 Annual Meeting and to accept said minutes, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 10, 2006 Annual Meeting and to accept said minutes.

Under **Agenda Item 6**, Moderator Collins requested Officer and Committee Reports. Attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes are the following reports:

\*Treasurer William T. Sisco  
\*Tax Collector Mary Delisio

\*Thomas McLaughlin-Beach Access Committee  
\*Moderator Cornelius B. Collins

\*Fire Chief Louis I. Misto, III spoke to the body about the Fire Department and its members, calls and responses by the department, and delighted the audience with an entertaining story about how he attempted to bake a chocolate cake, disastrously, resulting in a call to his own department.

Upon motion made by Edward Morenzoni, and duly seconded by Walter Olender, to accept all Officer and Committee reports, as presented, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept all Officer and Committee reports as presented.

Under **Agenda Item 7**, the 2007 Gerard Nardone Annual Service to Misquamicut Fire District Award, was presented by Michelle Vacca to Joan C. Przekop, former Clerk, for 15 years of dedicated service to the District. Joan, pleasantly surprised, was in attendance and accepted the award, thanking the District for the recognition.

Nominations and elections of officers, **Agenda Item 8**, then came up on the agenda. Ms. Chiaradio placed the following names into nomination:

Cornelius B. Collins for Moderator. Mary Delisio for Tax Collector. Diane Vumback for Clerk, William T. Sisco for Treasurer, Steven Pont for Assessor, Michelle Vacca and Thomas McLaughlin for Members at Large, Louis I. Misto, III for Fire Chief and John P. Toscano, Jr. for Solicitor.

Another nomination came from the floor for Clerk, that of Connie Sisco (Lutzel), however, Ms. Sisco not being present to accept the nomination, the same was ruled by the solicitor as not being a proper nomination, therefore, no vote was taken. There being no other names placed in nomination from the floor, upon motion made by Edward Morenzoni, and duly seconded by Walter Olender, that all properly nominated candidates be appointed, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** That all properly nominated candidates are re-elected to office for another term.

Under **Agenda Item 9**, standing committee nominations, Edward Morenzoni moved to authorize the Moderator to fill all standing committee seats. Said motion was duly seconded by Walter Olender, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To authorize the Moderator to fill all standing committee seats.

The following names were then placed into nomination and unanimously elected to the Improvement Committee: Norm Auger, Bill Gonzalez, Don Goyette and Carol Melin. Due to the passing of Dominic Arminio, the Chairperson of the Improvement Committee, there is an opening to be filled on said Committee. The name of Joyce VonGlaun was placed into nomination. There being no other names in nomination, Joyce VonGlaun was unanimously elected to sit on the Improvement Committee.

Discussion then ensued concerning **Agenda Item 10**, New Property Committee-Report and Discussion, i.e. the purchase of 4 Second Street, Misquamicut, Rhode Island. Michelle Vacca, gave the report for the acquisition of the new property by the District indicating that the District has no interest in being a landlord, and further, the property was found to be uninhabitable. It was determined that demolition of the structure would cost between \$10,000.00 and \$18,000.00. She, also, indicated that research indicates that to carry insurance on the structure, along with the cost of taxes to the Town of Westerly, together with the cost of improvement to the structure to make it safe for tenants to inhabit, the expense would be more than \$10,000.00 to \$18,000.00. She, also, indicated that the property could be merged with the Fire District so that it would become tax exempt and indicated that Solicitor Toscano is looking into this issue.

Moderator Collins added that the District did not purchase the real estate for the purpose of owning the house, but for the land and the long term needs for the Fire Department.

A motion came from the floor to sell the house for all costs incurred, the amount paid of \$390,000.00 and all expenses of closing. The motion was duly seconded, and the matter was then in order for discussion. The Moderator recognized taxpayers for comment. Paul T. Casey, Jr. and Georgann Casey, commented in favor of the acquisition. Susan Wilcox commented in opposition of the acquisition. Dick Karkutt commented, as well. Buddy Grills indicated that the land is worth \$325,700.00 and the building is only worth \$82,200.00.

Chief Misto then offered his opinion indicating that the purchase of the real estate was brought to the taxpayers and the matter was properly voted upon by the taxpayers in attendance at the meeting. He spoke about the long term needs of the Fire Department and the fact that the property purchased is adjacent to the Fire Station.

Solicitor Toscano indicated that a committee can be appointed to decide what to do with the property. If the District is allowed to retain the property, with or without the house, it is worth at least \$300,000.00. Further, he indicated that there will be an exemption, therefore, there will be no tax. He, also, indicated that once the house is demolished, there will be no insurance on a building. He said the question now before the body is whether or not to demolish the building and maintain the property or to sell the property.

Moderator Collins then asked for a motion. Upon motion duly made and seconded to sell the property for the price paid and all expenses of closing, it was overwhelmingly

**VOTED:** That the District would keep the property, with only six (6) dissenting votes.

**Agenda Item 11**, Parking Pass fees, then came up for discussion. Upon motion made by Edward Morenzoni, and duly seconded by Walter Olender, that the parking pass fees remain the same for the next fiscal year, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** That the parking pass fees remain the same for the next fiscal year.

**Agenda Item 12**, Proposed 2007-2008 Budget. Moderator Collins recognized Edward Morenzoni, Chairman of the Finance Committee, who addressed the body with his report, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Upon motion made by Douglas Turnberg, and duly seconded, to accept the 2007-2008 Budget, as presented, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the 2007-2008 Budget as presented.

Moderator Collins then recognized Mary L. Auger who spoke under **Agenda Item 13**, and presented a statement concerning the number of eligible voters that consists of a quorum under the District Charter and By-Laws. Mrs. Auger's statement is attached hereto and made a part hereof. The subject of mail ballots, also, came up for discussion.

Solicitor Toscano offered a legal opinion that the Rhode Island General Laws provide for mail ballots to be made available to voters in general elections, primaries and the like, but that the law does not refer to Fire Districts.

A taxpayer in attendance disagreed with the Solicitor submitting a copy of Title 17 entitled "Elections" Chapter 17-20-Mail Ballots, Section 17-20-1 and Section 17-20-2.

Mrs. Auger made a motion that the Misquamicut Fire District appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee to review the Charter and By-Laws and that the committee pay special attention to the areas of, among others, under the Charter Section 3-Annual Meeting, Section 5-Special Meetings, and Section 8-By-Laws, and further, in the By-Laws, Article 3-Meetings and Elections, and Article 10-Quorum, and that the committee report back to the Board by October 1, 2007.

Dick Karkutt seconded the motion, but with an amendment, that being not to use the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 date as stated in the original motion in that it would take time to change the Rhode Island General Law, although he is in favor of the rest of Mrs. Auger's motion.

The Moderator put the motion, as amended, to a vote, and the body overwhelmingly

**VOTED:** To put together a Charter Revision Committee to address all of the issues specified in Mrs. Auger's motion, as amended by Mr. Karkutt.

There was extensive discussion concerning rights-of-way (next to Maria's restaurant) and a lengthy address was given to the Board by Coach John Stellitano, 466 Atlantic Avenue, concerning the definition of "private property" vs. State Owned Property, and "above mean high tide" and "below mean high tide." Because discussion of these subjects would be lengthy in nature, the Board invited Coach Stellitano to attend its next meeting, and indicated that he would be notified of the date and time of the meeting.

Taxpayer, Joe Valenti, also, addressed the body concerning staffing of beaches and indicated that he would be willing to serve on a committee concerning this issue if such a committee is formed.

Under **Agenda Item 14**, the following District Resolutions were read by Ms. Chiaradio:

1. Noise Resolution
2. Zoning Resolution
3. Liquor License Resolution
4. Town of Westerly-Proposed Ordinance-Liquor License Freeze  
*scheduled for hearing on Monday, June 11, 2007 before the  
Westerly Town Council*
5. Tax Resolution
6. Indemnification Resolution

Due to the Fire Alarm sounding, the Moderator then quickly adjourned the meeting, and there being no further business properly before the Board, the meeting is hereby:

**ADJOURNED.**

A true copy, attest:

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Donna M. Chiaradio,  
Substitute Clerk