

**Mason's Island Fire District Monthly Meeting  
March 17, 2026 – 5:30 PM  
Mason's Island Yacht Club**

**1. Call to Order**

- a. President Scott Parry called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm. Board members Kevin Riley (Vice President), Bill Taylor (Tax Collector), Ricardo Kleinbaum (Clerk), Tom Giola, Jeff Miceli and Nancy Taylor Ross were present. Dave Ludwig (Tick Committee rep.), Bob Domurat (Roads Committee rep), and Lou Allyn (MICo), were also present. Ethan Tower (Treasurer) and Kristin Foster were absent.

**2. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes – None.**

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes –**

- a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 2026 monthly meeting minutes after agreement to make the following changes to the published draft minutes:
  - i. Additional language to section 5 (e) (4) regarding discussion of potential widening of Old South Road.
- b. The motion carried.

**4. Treasurer's Report – Ethan Tower (absent)**

- a. Board members discussed updates to the 2026/27 budget, referencing Ethan's email with adjustments to the fire services and snow plowing contracts.
- b. Bob and Tom summarized recent discussions with Allied regarding the snow clean up contract which expires at the end of this season. A discussion ensued on the timing and process of soliciting bids with consideration of alternative pricing: multi-year, hourly rates, per inch, per plowing versus the current arrangement to perform all snow clean ups fewer than 15 inches at \$18,000 per year. Bob and Tom agreed to prepare a term sheet for vendor solicitation.

- c. Tom said he provided Ethan with a \$5K estimate for clearing no more than half the catch basins. It would involve an assessment over two years of the condition of each basin to determine the need for repairs and related budgetary allocations.

## 5. Committee Reports

### a. Fire & Safety Committee (Emergency Preparedness) – Jeff Miceli

- i. Jeff noted two incidents in February, both EMS calls.
- ii. The Board discussed the status of discussions with Mystic Fire Department (“MFD”) on pricing terms for a multi-year contract. Jeff detailed the rationale and cost savings associated with dropping the proposed 9% cap in the second year and removing it for the last 8 years of the 10 year contract. Jeff argued that no cap would be proposed, given the uncertainty regarding MFD’s future labor costs and inflation trends. (Refer to Feb 2026 minutes.)
- iii. A discussion followed on how best to draft an agreement to reflect the proposed approach. Kevin explained that MIFD’s cost would reflect the fire department’s budget each year. The Board agreed to have the Fire & Safety Committee propose pricing for years 3 to 10 based off of the higher of 4% or the previous calendar year’s consumer price index (“CPI”).

### b. Tick Committee – Jeff Miceli/Dave Ludwig

- i. Jeff updated the Board on guidance from the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station (“CAES) regarding MIFD’s tick treatment program. He recommended deferring the initial spring Talstar (“bifenthrin’) application to mid-May with a spray product, thus replacing the current granular formulation. Jeff noted that the CAES studies showed greater effectiveness with use of the spray, while cautioning that we not change too many practices at the same time.
- ii. A discussion followed on the timing of application, chemical composition, and higher risks of product drift associated with

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utilizing a spray product (post-application wind and rain) compared to continued use of the (0.07% bifenthrin) granular treatment for the synthetic treatment option.

- iii. Dave recommended sending out a notice to the community announcing the modifications to the tick treatment program. Ricardo raised the issue of timing for the first synthetic application given the prevalence of ticks well before Mid May, and the risks to pollinators of a late Spring application.
- iv. Jeff reiterated his belief that the preferred approach was to implement CAES guidance as indicative of science. Dave agreed to draft a contract proposal with three cedar applications (Mid May, end May, end June) and at least one backpack spray applications in Mid May/late June and mid-November.
- v. Dave suggested sending out the annual tick survey in mid May and June. He needs input from an M.D. to draft some of the survey questions. Ricardo volunteered Jeffrey Engel.
- vi. Jeff reported on news of a Mystic resident contracting Powassan virus which can be transmitted within 15 minutes of a bite, though encounters and risk are extremely low, based on information from (CAES).
- vii. Jeff also updated the Board on the community survey roll-out aimed at identifying the incidence of tick-borne diseases. He noted the issue of protecting anonymity, especially with regard to infection disclosure, and enhancing survey awareness. Jeff said that he will put the proposed Tick Monitoring program on hold, given the constraints of a small population within MIFD.

**c. Traffic Control - Catherine Deichmann**

- i. No report.**

**d. Nominating Committee – Kristin Foster (absent), Kevin Riley**

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- i. Kevin disclosed the Committee's progress for proposing the 2026/27 Board line up: Scott has agreed to serve out the last of Tom Giola's third year term, Ethan has agreed to serve on an additional term Board working on the Facilities Committee, Nancy will assume the role of Treasurer, and Adam Duczynski has agreed to join the Board for a three year term. The Committee is still trying to finalize a third nominee, according to Kevin. (Once the last slot is addressed, the Board would move to adopt a motion to recommend the candidates to shareholders for approval at the upcoming annual meeting.)
- e. **Facilities Committee – Tom Giola, Bob Domurat (absent)** - Referring to the monthly Facilities Committee report, Tom noted the following:
- i. **Plowing Damage** – Tom suggested having Pacheco clean up debris and repair grass in affected areas. Scott reported that he updated the MIFD website with a revised snow guideline that clarifies that MIFD bears no responsibility for homeowner's objects: 1) damaged by snow, slush or other debris thrown from the plow of MIFD's snow contractor, regardless if it is on MIPOA or the homeowners' property, or 2) on MIPOA-owned right-of-way property. He added that homeowners should ensure that objects near a plowed road can withstand the force of snow being thrown from a plow, or remove it before the onset of winter. The damaged mailbox reimbursement policy of \$50 remains unchanged, according to Scott.
  - ii. **Old South Rd Widening ?** – Tom followed up on Lou's suggestion to consider widening Old South Rd and Allyn's Alley in the event Chippechaug Trail becomes impassible, as described in the February 17 minutes. Referring to an earlier email, Tom discussed the feasibility and cost of raising a portion of Chippechaug Trail 9 from Sandpiper to the end of Danforth's house to match the low point on Old South Rd. He noted that the road could be raised by one and a half to two feet. The project would also involve raising part of Allyn's Alley and Sandpiper, as part of grade adjustments on the west side of the Trail. At a cost of \$974K, the project would be materially less expensive and easier to permit than widening Old South Rd. (This is not a

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proposal but a concept.) The Board concluded that the widening of Old South Rd did not have merit.

- f. **Facilities Committee Personnel** – Bob reported that he will not seek a new term after the current fiscal year. A meeting on March 30 is scheduled to discuss future Facilities Committee staffing.

**6. New Business – None**

**7. Old Business – Remote Meeting Participation**

- a. Ricardo reported that he and Ethan have been researching the legal and regulatory scope for remote participation in Board meetings. He noted that Robert’s Rules of Order provide for various electronic meeting options and the need to establish guidelines (quorum, equipment use). As MIFD by laws require compliance Robert’s Rules with regard to meeting protocol, a Board motion and potentially a by law revision might be necessary, according to Ricardo. He will circulate the various remote participation options to the Board for discussion and consideration at the April meeting. Ricardo agreed to update the Board on FOIA and Connecticut statutory compliance as well.

**8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 5:30 pm**

**9. Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo J. Kleinbaum – Clerk, Masons Island Fire District