

Mason's Island Fire District BOD Meeting – November 14, 2019

Attending: Jim McAuley, David Krupp, Bill Taylor, Ethan Tower, John Parry, Bob Banas, and Lee Hisle. Rufus Allyn also attended. Not in attendance: Kristin Foster and Tom Cooke. President Jim McAuley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A quorum was present.

Clerk's Report: M/S/P approving the minutes from previous meeting, October 8, 2019.

President's Report: There were six emergency calls in Sept. and the year to date total, including October, is 14.

Treasurer's Report: Ethan Tower distributed updated Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports. In general, expenses are in line with expectations. MIFD has not been billed yet for the wind-storm clean up, and Ethan was concerned that it might exceed the remaining budget of \$8,780, although Rufus Allyn said he thought it would not. The money has not been moved from the Roads Reserve to pay for this year's paving work. The Town Tax Collector has collected all the real estate taxes and picked up some old car taxes due, probably, to registration renewals. M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report. John Parry will set up a meeting with the new Tax Coordinator/Collector, Alex Ellison, Jim McAuley, and Jean Anderson to discuss collecting the Tick Tax in 2020. There was support for continuing this program. Ethan suggested reformatting the sign-up sheet/bills to put the request for payment at the top.

Roads Report: John Parry expressed disappointment at the police department's failure to release information from the traffic monitoring on the island last spring. He will prepare a report on traffic and speed control measures for the January meeting. After the Board forms an action plan, the next step would be to meet with MIPOA. From the information he has, John said that traffic speeds and volume are about the same as five years ago. In other discussions about traffic, the group again agreed that there should be a sign on the gatehouse regarding 24-hour video surveillance, and Rufus Allyn said he would get that done. In a discussion of the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the traffic control officers, Bob Banas reported that the security company wants a long-term contract and he raised the question of talking to other companies first. David Krupp noted that he had difficulty getting his calls returned when he tried doing that a while ago. John Parry noted that the bike shop on Route 1 hands out brochures to bike rental and other customers that include a Masons Island route. Bob Banas will talk to the shop to discourage this.

David Krupp discussed the quote he obtained to replace all the street signs. The previous plan to re-paint the existing signs was put on hold while the replacement option was explored. The quote includes making and delivering the signs at a cost of \$180 each, or \$8,685 total

(installation could be included at an additional cost). The price includes a decorative compass design at a charge of \$30/post. While David thought the total price was high, the materials alone make up more than half the cost. Bob Banas and Jon Jones surveyed all the existing signs. The Board concluded that we should see if they will prepare six posts to replace the signs in the worst condition, and to see how they look.

Rufus Allyn discussed the Edward French and Son quote for paving the remaining roads in the district at a total cost of \$140,670. A substantial part of the pricing is the road grinder which must be rented for a whole day and could do all the remaining roads in one day. Reducing the number of roads to be done does not proportionately reduce the price. The water company is not going to install new pipes under any of the remaining roads, so they will not be contributing to the cost. Ethan estimated it would take 4-5 years before MIFD would have enough cash to do the whole project. Rufus Allyn will talk to French about the minimum amount of paving that could be done at the same price per foot.

New Business: (1) Shoreline Erosion – This discussion was precipitated by an e-mail from Eugene Winchester expressing concern about the shoreline erosion occurring near Allyn's Alley and the dock, and a reply by Kristin Foster that suggested connecting/extending Old South Road to Hickory Ledge. This would provide an alternate route which does not pass by the dock area. MIFD had rocks buried north of the dock last year to reinforce the ground in an attempt to prevent further erosion. There was some discussion of whether Old South would need to be widened to two lanes along its whole length, but we concluded that a one lane gravel road would suffice as an emergency route. Prior to the meeting, Rufus measured the altitude of various points on the roads in question, noting that one point on Old South was only 3.14 feet elevation and Chippechaug at Allyn's Alley is 5.67 feet. He also noted that dumping rocks into the water is not an option. Rufus will have the unpaved section of Old South cleared another 5 feet on either side and will then work on an estimate of how much gravel would be needed and the cost. (2) Nature Preserve – The Masons Island Company owns 52 acres of land consisting of five parcels in the middle of the island that is subject to a conservation easement to The Nature Conservancy that prohibits development. The Company needs to retain title to two of the parcels in conjunction with other, developable land that currently is taxed as forest. To retain the forest classification, there must be a minimum of 25 acres. The Company would like to sell the other three parcels. MIPOA could be a potential purchaser, if funded by MIFD, and Rufus said they would be willing to take payment over time. Bill Taylor will contact Bob Martin, president of MIPOA, to meet with Bill, Jim McAuley and David Krupp to discuss this. This would need annual meeting approval of the concept and the budget. (3) Web Site – The revised web site contains names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers of the MIFD board. Bill Taylor will

review Freedom of Information requirements to see if phone numbers are required. (4) Ice Pond – Ownership of the Ice Pond will be discussed at the next meeting in January.

MIFD Meeting Calendar:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020, 5:30 pm at 18 Money Point Road. A private dinner with no business agenda will occur on December 17th.

Meeting Adjourned – 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Taylor