

Mason's Island Fire District BOD Meeting – February 1, 2018

Attending: Jim McAuley, David Krupp, Bill Taylor, Ethan Tower, Greta Jones, Kristin Foster, Bob Banas and Lee Hisle. Tax Collector, Lydia Herd, also attended. Not in attendance: John Parry, and Rufus Allyn. President Jim McAuley called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Clerk's Report: M/S/P approving the minutes from previous meeting, Nov. 2, 2017.

President's Report: (1) Emergency Calls – Through December 31, 2017, there have been 10 calls in the current fiscal year. (2) Fire Department Communications – Jim McAuley has not been in contact with the Fire Dept. regarding their communication with the Insurance Service Organization to get the MIFD fire protection rating upgraded. One issue is whether the MIFD rating can be improved when other areas serviced by the Fire Dept. are not served by hydrants and do not qualify for an upgrade. (3) Road Paving Schedule – Some water line construction materials are in place along Money Point Road. House inspections are ongoing for areas where there will be blasting. DRS Seismic Consultants is doing the inspections which take about an hour. Conn. Water expects to start pipe installation in early Feb. and to complete the work by the end of April. If delayed, work will cease by early May at the latest. The work will involve Skiff Lane to Anchor Lane, the rest of Money Point Road and some of Cove Hill Road.

Treasurer's Report: –(Ethan Tower, Treasurer) – The Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual was distributed to the MIFD Directors for discussion. The following points were discussed.

1. With the exception of 1 line item all other budgeted line items are either on/or under budget. The Clearing Trees and Brush line item is \$1,495.00 over budget due to greater than anticipated needed clearing performed in the fall.
2. The Named Storm Clean Up line item disbursed \$6,000.00 due to clean up after an early Nov. 2017 windstorm.
3. The Connecticut Water Company informed us that they would soon be billing MIFD for the water and fire hydrant rental for those hydrants now in service. MIFD informed them that they were under billing by 2 fire hydrants. They informed us that when they finish the Water Main Rehabilitation Project that will be corrected.
4. MIFD Balance Sheet – The Balance Sheet reports a Cash balance of \$382,000. Of this total, \$153,000 is reserved for the Roads Reserve Fund, \$25,000 is for the Catastrophe Reserve Fund, and \$12,500 is for the Fire Reserve Fund. There is also \$90,000 of unreserved funds that represents the amount of cash recommended Fire Districts keep on hand. The balance of approximately \$100,000 is for the remainder of this year's expenses. Any excess will be added to the Roads Reserve. (5) Ethan next distributed a Projected Fire Protection and Road Repaving Costs exhibit updated to 1/19/2018. Phases 1 and 2 are done and paid for. The Repaving Costs

have been updated for Phases 3, 4 and 5 based on French Brothers' quotes, plus a 5% contingency and the Mason Island Company's 15% construction oversight fee. Ethan also prepared a Projected Roads Reserve Cash Flow exhibit which shows projected Repaving Costs and FY ending balances. We should have almost \$188,000 on hand at 2017-18 FY end after this year's paving costs and before Conn. Water's projected payment of \$35,000. The projections for FY's 2018-19 and 2019-2020 show that there will be sufficient cash to pay for the remaining two paving phases. A worst case analysis that assumes no Conn. Water contributions and no Unplanned Surplus also would have sufficient funds available for those phases. Ethan asked the Board to think ahead to the years after the current paving program is completed and consider other capital needs, budget revisions and possible mil rate reductions. In the short term, we need to put together the FY 2018-2019 budget by the May Board meeting for approval at the Annual Meeting in late May.

Tax Collector Report: Lydia Herd reported that no delinquent taxes were collected in the most recent quarter. Delinquencies remain at \$480, and that tax collections still stand at 99.92%. Lydia has pursued various collection attempts on the overdue bills, including attempting to attach a bank account on two of the oldest bills. The bank involved rejected the attachment, so Lydia executed Alias Tax Warrants transferring her collection authority to a CT State Marshal who works with the Town of Stonington as well. The delinquent real estate taxpayer also owes the Town of Stonington which plans to put a tax lien on the property in March. Lydia will also put a lien on this property. When there are three years of delinquent taxes for this taxpayer, she will refer the matter to an attorney to prosecute a foreclosure action. There were 24 supplemental motor vehicle tax bills and six minor Real Estate Tax bills for value changes due to renovations and improvements, both totaling \$571, all of which have been paid.

Nominating Committee Report/Succession Planning: Kristin Foster and Lee Hisle will put together a committee including the required three non-Board members to come up with new Board member nominations. There was some discussion of potential Board members, and their relevant work experience. Jim requested that nominees be identified by the April meeting.

Traffic and Security: Bob Banas reported that he spoke with MIPOA head Bob Martin to discuss security issues. One matter that has been addressed is the new instructions for the Traffic Control Officers regarding non-residents. MIPOA has discussed requesting that MIFD install a security video camera and license plate reader at the guard house, and Bob distributed a quote for \$3,190 which would include all related equipment. If we were to go forward, it should be a matter for the annual meeting as other shoreline communities have had strong reactions to such proposals. Ethan raised the issue of additional weekends of Traffic Control Officer

coverage, asking people to think about it as this would also affect the budget presented for approval at the annual meeting. The company asked to quote the cost of producing new wooden street signs has not responded with a quote. The Road Committee will follow up.

New Business: There was some discussion of the shoreline erosion by Allyn's Alley. Although this is on Mason Island Co. land, eventually this could affect Chippechaug Trail. Ethan suggested staking the current shoreline and watching for further erosion. John Parry has met with the town regarding procedures for authorizing and controlling digging in road. Bill Taylor reported that Jean Anderson has sent out the notice for sign-ups for tick treatment through MIPOA. Seascape is charging the same this year while Biotech's annual charge has increased by less than \$3 to \$227.28. Draft contracts with the two companies were delivered to Jim McAuley for his review. Jean has requested that common area spraying by Biotech and paid for by MIFD be expanded to include the Community Garden which had a serious tick problem last year. There was consensus that this was a good idea although it was not formally approved.

MIFD Meeting Calendar:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 5:30 pm at 18 Money Point Road.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Bill Taylor