

Mason's Island Fire District BOD Meeting – June 13, 2019

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

Clerk's Report: M/S/P approving the minutes from previous meeting, May 2, 2019, and M/S/P approving the minutes from the Annual Meeting, May 25, 2019.

President's Report: There was only one emergency call in May, bringing the FY total to 23. Jim has had numerous calls with Progressive Casualty Insurance Company about the guard house claim. They had objected to two bills for removal of the damaged guardhouse, but there were two separate steps taken to remove it, so they increased their offer by \$125 (the amount they had denied), to a total of \$19,542. The Mason's Island Yacht Club was billed for cutting the road without a permit. Jim suggested that since the road is half dug up already due to the water main installation work, that MIYC should not have to pay. The consensus of the discussion was in agreement.

Treasurer's Report: Ethan Tower distributed updated Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports. Not much had changed since the annual meeting other than some additional Road Maintenance. Ace Security had asked for a \$5/ hour raise which Bob Banas got reduced to \$1.50/hour. We will have adequate Road Reserve funds to complete the repaving scheduled for the fall. M/S/P to approve the Treasurer's report.

Tax Collector's Report: In her final report, Lydia Herd distributed the text of a legal notice published three times in two newspapers by the Town Tax Collector regarding the Levy of Taxes for 2018 which included Mason's Island. The expense is split among the Town and the other Fire Districts included in the notice. Five bills remain outstanding, all of which are for motor vehicle taxes owed by current or former renters. Two were from the previous year and three are for this year, including two that were additions in Feb. Lydia also handed out a list of refunds due to individual taxpayers and while she would previously credit these against new bills, with the Town taking over, she recommended that we send checks. She also distributed a list of Mason's Island residents with outstanding tax bills with the town.

New Business: (1) Drones – Following up on a question raised at the annual meeting, Bob Banas reported on his research. While the State of Connecticut pre-empts any local regulation of drones, it largely defers to the Federal Government other than banning drones from state parks. Federal regulations do require operators to respect privacy. Bob suggested that people

can complain to the police if a drone operator does not comply with a request to desist. Bob will prepare a written report for the MIFD web site. (2) Tax Coordinator – Lee Hisle reported that Alex Ellison is interested in being the tax liaison with the Town and has met with Ethan, but he has left the island for the summer. (3) Gatehouse – There was some concern about the new gatehouse windows which crank out to open (the old ones went in) and protrude into the traffic. (4) Meeting Night – After brief discussion, the Board's meeting night was changed to the second Tuesday of the month.

Meeting Adjourned – 6:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Taylor