

Mason's Island Fire District BOD Meeting – June 9, 2020

Attending via Zoom Conference Call: Jim McAuley, David Krupp, Bill Taylor, Ethan Tower, Kristin Foster, John Parry, Bob Banas, Tom Cooke and Lee Hisle. Rufus Allyn, Tom Flaherty, and Tax Collector Alex Ellison also participated. President Jim McAuley called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. A quorum was present on the call.

Clerk's Report: M/S/P approving the minutes from previous meetings, April 4, 2020, April 28, 2020, May 12, 2020, and May 23, 2020.

President's Report: (1) Emergency calls stand at 24 for the fiscal year. (2) Sarah Hallberg has asked that the stump in front of her property but on MIPOA land be removed. There is also a second stump on MIPOA land near the gatehouse. The stumps were created when trees were removed as part of road maintenance work overseen by Rufus Allyn. He cautioned that several trees will need to be removed next year and removing these stumps could set a costly precedent. He will get a price quote to remove these stumps before the next meeting. (3) Dave Reynolds owns the house on the corner of Plover Lane and Chippechaug Trail and has requested that a speed bump be installed there because cars go by at 25-30 mph. Rufus noted that cars can go over the FD speed bumps at 25-30 mph, so installing a speed bump would not accomplish anything. The request was tabled.

Treasurer's Report: Prior to the meeting, Ethan Tower distributed updated Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports. Ethan noted that his earlier projections have proven accurate so the year end figures will be the same as forecast. There should be a \$20-30,000 surplus at year end. He noted that next year's budget was passed at the May 12th meeting. M/S/P to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Unfinished Business: (1) Shoreline Erosion – Kristin Foster will continue her efforts to contact Micheal Grzywinski of DEEP. Jim McAuley volunteered to continue working with Kristin on this project after his term ends. (2) Land Swap for Old South Road. The southernmost 300 feet of Old South Road was not included with the roads deeded to MIPOA by the Masons Island Company. Work is continuing to acquire ownership of this roadway via a swap of land by MIPOA, after which MIFD will fund improvement of the roadway with gravel to provide a one way, emergency alternative to Chippechaug if that road should suffer storm damage rendering it impassible. Some issues have arisen with this plan. Rufus Allyn reiterated his recommendation that improving the protection of Chippechaug would be the better approach. (4) Security – Conversation with Stonington Police Chief Stewart. Ethan summarized the recommendations of Chief Stewart at a meeting attended by Ethan, Betsy Lebel, and Bob Martin. (a) Signage – Better signs are needed to inform people that the roads are private and

for residents only. (b) Enforcement – There should be designated people to handle enforcement as has been done by Lords Point. Once people are told they should not be here, most will leave and generally they do not return. (c) Pick your battles. Focus on what is upsetting MIFD residents. (d) The Stonington police department has two problem solvers who could consult with and advise MIFD and could even come to the district to monitor activity. Ethan concluded by saying that we need to improve our signage after consulting further with the police and reviewing the signs at Lords Point. (5) Road Signs –Glen Callahan of Mystic Sign Co. will provide a sample sign for review in a few weeks, and if approved, will proceed to complete the order. The sample will be for Allyn's Alley and Chippechaug. Signs can have road names on 2, 3 or four sides due to the configuration of the intersection, so we will need to provide specific guidance. Installation will be done by the former Yacht Club handyman, Ryan Rollinson. (6) Traffic and Security – Bob Banas distributed traffic count reports prior to the meeting and noted that there was an average of 46 turnarounds a day in May, about double last year's figures. In the last week, turnarounds have decreased about 40%. The group considered the issue of reducing the hours of the traffic control officers to last year's weekend schedule with Tom Cooke recommending this approach. After discussion, the group decided to maintain the current schedule but to continue to monitor traffic volumes and reconsider the issue at the next meeting. Bob Banas noted that it would be difficult to discontinue the current schedule and then reinstate it due to personnel issues for the guard company.

New Business: Annual Meeting – The group discussed how we should hold the annual meeting under current conditions. Bill Taylor recommended paper ballots dropped off at the Yacht Club over an extended voting period to avoid any gathering. After discussion and a straw poll of the members of the Board, it was decided that a live, socially distanced meeting would be held outside on the Yacht Club grounds at 10:00 am on the 27th of June.

MIFD Meeting Calendar:

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for July 14th, 5:30 pm. There will also be a meeting as discussed at the Yacht Club on June 27th at 10:00 am to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes, elect the three Board members to new three-year terms and to elect the officers of the Board in compliance with Governor Lamont's EO 700,

Meeting Adjourned –6:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Taylor