

## **Mason's Island Fire District BOD Meeting – April 12, 2018**

**Attending:** Jim McAuley, Bill Taylor, Ethan Tower, Greta Jones, Kristin Foster, John Parry, Bob Banas and Lee Hisle. Rufus Allyn also attended. Not in attendance: David Krupp and Tax Collector, Lydia Herd. President Jim McAuley called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. A quorum was present.

**Clerk's Report:** M/S/P approving the minutes from previous meeting, March 8, 2018.

**President's Report:** Jim McAuley did not have an update on emergency calls although he knew of at least two. Repaving of Money Point Road, part of Skiff Lane, Huckleberry and Bayberry will start at the beginning of October. The Annual Meeting will be held May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Jim asked members to notify him of anything they want on the agenda. Jim will do a mailing (30 days in advance per the bylaws) and the clerk will handle the publication of notice in the Day (10 days minimum). The expense categories in the new budget will be clearly identified as such so that there is no question regarding when the \$1,000 transfer limitation in the bylaws applies. Prior to the meeting, John Parry distributed extensive materials recommending adoption of the town's process for roadway excavation permits. There was some discussion of this process which requires a prior application, engineering review, standards for completing the work and a bond securing proper performance and repair. Ethan will check with MIFD's attorney as to the proper way to enact the ordinance – either a vote at the annual meeting or by the vote of the Board. John will then finalize the Roadway Restoration process language for the Board and annual meeting as needed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ethan Tower distributed the updated MIFD Budget vs. Actual including the 2018-2019 Budget that he sent and thoroughly explained by e-mail on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Without repeating the details of that e-mail, the major changes to next year's budget are: \$5,500 less revenue due to reduced Stonington property valuations in the District; a 50%/\$6,300 increase in Clearing Trees and Brush; removal of the Crack and Seal budget item; Connecticut Water's pipe and hydrant cost increasing to \$13,925; paving this fall at a cost of \$120,822; and an increase in Traffic Control costs due to adding two more weekends service in the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2019 plus the costs of installing a security camera at the gatehouse. Ethan also noted that the Increase to the Reserve Fund for Roads would be \$18,432 in the next fiscal year versus \$30,031 for this fiscal year. Ethan also suggested the Board consider reducing the mil rate in future years.

**Tax Report:** In the absence of Lydia Herd, Jim announced that she will resign effective at the end of the next fiscal year, June, 2019. Jim noted that only two of the area's fire districts collect taxes on their own, with all the others using their town's tax collector. Lydia sent a written

report. She collected a partial payment on the one remaining delinquent real estate tax bill. Two hundred dollars (principal) remains due. The Conn. State Marshall collected one delinquent car tax and is pursuing one other. Lydia has sent 53 BioTech and 58 SeaScape tick tax bills.

**Nominating Committee Report:** The committee consisted of Board members Kristin Foster and Lee Hisle, and non-members Kyle Anderson, Suzie Canning and Jeff Walker. Tom Cooke has agreed to run along with returning Board members Kristin and Lee.

**Traffic/Security:** A two page handout on traffic and security titled “Security on Mason’s Island” has been prepared by MIFD and MIPOA and will be included in the materials mailed out for the annual meeting. There was some discussion as to the hours and days of extra coverage in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks which will be held on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. Rufus Allyn has found someone who will stain the existing road signs and repaint the lettering. The erosion control work along the shoreline by Allyn’s Alley has been completed at the cost of \$3,500.

**New Business:** Jim announced that the YMCA has asked to use Mason Island roads for their triathlon on June 10th. Ethan noted that we requested an indemnity agreement in conjunction with last year’s race and that none was ever received. It was decided to condition approval on prior receipt of an indemnity agreement this year.

**MIFD Meeting Calendar:**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2018, 5:30 pm at 18 Money Point Road.

Meeting Adjourned – 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted

Bill Taylor