

Mason's Island Fire District BOD Meeting – September 14, 2017

Attending: Jim McAuley, David Krupp, Bill Taylor, Ethan Tower, Greta Jones, Kristin Foster, John Parry, Bob Banas and Lee Hisle. Rufus Allyn and Tax Collector, Lydia Herd, also attended.

(Note: Those in attendance at the meeting included Rob Cook, Kit Hartford and Catherine Hewitt, a reporter from the Westerly Sun.)

President Jim McAuley called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Clerk's Report: With the deletion of the question in parenthesis at the end of the Traffic and Security Report section, M/S/P approving the minutes from previous meeting, June 8, 2017.

President's Report: Jim McAuley reported that emergency calls for FY 2016-17 totaled 30, or 5 more than our contract permits. No bill has been received for the excess calls. For this fiscal year, there were 3 calls in July and 1 in August and none involved Enders Island.

Treasurer's Report: Ethan Tower distributed a final Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet for the prior FY end, 6/30/17. The Line 51400 of the P&L showed a final transfer of \$144,639 to the Roads Reserve for the year. Ethan has contacted the accountants to start this year's review process. Ethan also provided P&L Budget vs, Actual and Bal. Sheet for the current FY. Tax collections to date are \$218,462 of the budgeted \$220,000. \$3,363 has been paid on the Lyme Disease Program, and one half of the annual Fire Department's Fire Protection fee has also been paid. Insurance costs were about \$300 under budget. We have not yet received the bill for August's Traffic and Safety costs. Of the \$570,505 in total assets, \$223,213 is in the Roads Reserve Fund. Anticipated fall paving costs are \$74,000.

Tax Collector Report: For the fiscal year ending 6/30/17, we collected all but \$49.52 (principal of two motor vehicle bills) that were billed for that year. We also collected \$21.98 that was owed from the previous year. We have only \$70.17 in principal outstanding from the past three years, consisting of four motor vehicle bills. We also collected \$501.54 in interest and fees over and above the taxes due. Our collection rate exceeded 100% at 100.18% and our uncollected taxes were only .03%.

For this fiscal year, we billed \$214,250 in Real Estate taxes, \$3,795 in Motor Vehicle taxes, and \$2,190 in Personal Property taxes, for a total of \$220,236. So far we have collected \$218,565 in taxes and interest (Note: Slightly higher than Ethan's figure above which was calculated as of an earlier date) or 99.2%. We collected 100% of Personal Property taxes, and all but three Real Estate tax bills with outstanding principal of \$1,852. Two of these three have been slow payers before and have had liens placed against them. We have collected all but three Motor Vehicle

bills with a total outstanding balance of \$57.80. Two of these also owe for last year. Lydia is sending delinquent bills each month.

New Business:

- (a) Enders Island/Army Corp of Engineers Revetment Project – On behalf of MIFD, Jim raised the issue of road wear and tear with the ACE. ACE will have money for documentation and design of the Revetment after 10/1/17 with construction possibly following 10/1/18.
- (b) Sealing of the pavement at the end of Nauyaug Point Road has taken place to correct new pavement that did not match the existing pavement.
- (c) Hydrants attached to the Ice Pond have been removed.
- (d) This year's paving including portions of Nauyaug Point Road, Money Point Road and Nauyaug North Road will occur the first week of October. (Note: Later rescheduled for 10/16.)
- (e) Jim has contacted Connecticut Water Company (CWC) about moving up their water line installation schedule so that MIFD can accelerate its road paving. Phase 3 (Money Point Part 2 and Skiff (Anchor to Money Point)) is scheduled for CWC water mains in spring 2018 and MIFD paving in fall 2018. Jim has asked CWC about the water mains existing in some of the roadways covered in MIFD's 2019-2020 and phase 6 paving schedule to see if we can include paving them in the fall of 2018.
- (f) The new meter pit vault and new water meter have been installed and all hydrants have been tested. Reportedly one hydrant tested out at 680 gallons per minute, well above the minimum 500 gpm needed.
- (g) Road Excavation Permits – We need to adopt a process along the lines of the Town of Stonington to assure that the roads are properly restored after they are dug up. John Parry volunteered to look into adopting a process for monitoring and permitting excavation of MIFD's roads by contractors. MIPOA will need to be involved also as the owner of the roads.
- (h) Traffic and Security Update – After a somewhat stormy start, things calmed down. Ace provided written guidance for its security guards that are used on other sites. David Krupp will summarize the data kept by the guards regarding turn-aways, Mason Island residents, Enders Island visitors, etc. The Yacht Club is not pursuing installation of a security camera. Bob Banas will assist David as co-chair of the Traffic Committee.
- (i) There was some discussion of what constitutes a "budget category". (Note: Section 22 of the MIFD Bylaws states "The Board of Directors can transfer funds up to \$1,000 from one budget category to another.") The Budget that is approved at the annual meeting contains both major categories of expense (e.g. Road Maintenance) and 3 to 9 sub-categories (e.g. Plowing). At issue is whether the \$1,000 requirement applies to moving money between major categories (e.g. from Road Maintenance to Capital Improvements) or among sub-categories (e.g. from Plowing to Mowing). On this point, it was concluded that Jim will call MIFD's attorney for guidance. The issue arose in regards to a water flooding issue at the Baxter's

house at the intersection of Bayberry and Huckleberry. Currently the road channels water into their garage. Rufus Allyn suggested that the road may need to be rebuilt, but that a swale installed in May may have solved the problem. Ethan suggested that if the problem has not been resolved, the work could be added to the budget next year.

MIFD Meeting Calendar:

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

Meeting Adjourned – 7:41 pm

Respectfully submitted

Bill Taylor