

Mason's Island Fire District BOD Meeting – September 18, 2018

Attending: Jim McAuley, David Krupp, Bill Taylor, Ethan Tower, John Parry, Bob Banas, Tom Cooke and Lee Hisle. Tax Collector, Lydia Herd, and Lou Allyn also attended. Not in attendance: Rufus Allyn and Kristin Foster. 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, June 7, 2018.

President's Report: Emergency Calls – In the first two months of this fiscal year, there were 8 calls, 4 each in July and August. In the last fiscal year (2017-18), there were a total of 21 calls with a total of 4 in July and August.

Special Presentation: Ice Pond Condition and Treatment: Lou Allyn handed out some materials and talked about the situation at the Ice Pond. Lou stated that the pond has two problems: blooms of filamentous algae and a build-up of muck that is slowly filling the pond. There were two blooms of algae this year which reappeared after each of two treatments. The algae then disappeared on its own. There are two approaches to removing the muck. Mechanical removal requires permits and an empty pond, which is not possible due to the location of the drain pipes. Suction dredging also requires permits, and is expensive. The cost for this pond assuming there is only 1 foot of muck would be in the range of \$164,000, and that only includes pumping the muck into a plastic bag and letting the water drain out. The cost does not include disposal of the muck or the costs of permits. To stop or slow the growth of the muck, Lou said he was trying to reduce the phosphorous levels by draining and allowing the pond to refill. There was a discussion of grass fertilizer used by surrounding property owners as a potential source of the phosphorous, but fertilizer sold within 50 miles of the shore does not contain phosphorous in Conn. There is a possible third method to clear the muck through use of low cost biologics, but this needs to be explored. Jim McAuley noted that the Masons Island Company owns the pond and that Rufus Allyn wants to sell it to MIFD for \$1. Lydia Herd suggested that if the right of way around the pond were cleared for walking, the surrounding landowners would be encouraged to buy the pond and work on the problem. While phosphorous may be the result of geese droppings, leaves and fertilizer, Lydia urged that the pond be tested for sewage runoff from surrounding septic systems.

Treasurer's Report: Ethan Tower distributed updated Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports. He followed that with his annual walk through the Budget, explaining what each line item entailed. This presentation was too exhaustive to be repeated in full here, but some the less obvious items will be recounted.

51190 – This is 15% of the other items included in 51100 – Road Maintenance, and is the construction management fee due the Masons Island Company (MIC). This fee appears elsewhere in the budget as well.

51140 – Paving – this is not the roads repaving project, but minor repairs and patching.

51160 – Gravel Roads – Annual work to maintain Andrews and Crossover Roads.

51189 – Miscellaneous Expenses – We have already incurred \$2,100 for repainting the lines in the roads.

51320 – Road Repaving Projects – The major repaving work as approved each year at the annual meeting.

51401 – From Roads Reserve – This negative figure represents the withdrawal of funds from the Road Reserve to fund the costs in 51320 – Road Repaving Costs and 51390 – Management Fees.

52200 – Lyme Disease Program – This funds the four poster program that feeds corn to deer that get tick fighting chemicals applied in the process and treatment of certain public spaces.

We will spend \$132,000 in October for this year's major paving work, Phase 3. Phases 4 and 5 will occur next fall. Once the current repaving is completed, MIFD should set aside about \$40,000 per year to pre-fund the next round of major paving assuming a 25 year useful life of the repaved roads and the total costs incurred.

Tax Collector's Report: Lydia reported that she referred the 7 outstanding motor vehicle bills from FY 2017-2018 to a state marshal who successfully collected 5 of them. This leaves two bills outstanding with a total balance of \$35. We have collected \$215,345.87 in taxes this fiscal year which represents 100% of real estate and personal property bills. For this year, there are four outstanding motor vehicle bills, three delinquent and one new, for a total of \$75. Ethan and Lydia will meet with the Stonington Tax Collector next Tuesday to work on the transfer of MIFD tax collection to the town. The town has reduced its charge to \$1.25 plus \$.23 postage per bill and has a 99% success rate. If there is a partial shortfall, they will pay MIFD in full first. MIFD will need a contract with the town and will still need its own tax collector to coordinate with the town. The MIFD tax collector will also need to find MIFD motor vehicles on the town's list and bill for those separately, as the town does not do this. (Some of the other fire districts do not tax motor vehicles, probably for this reason.)

Old Business: (1) At our prior meeting we had concluded that cars that were registered by residents of Enders Island could receive MIFD car stickers. Lydia reported there were only 2 such cars so the matter was dropped. (2) Road Excavation Ordinance – One or two excavations or driveway maintenance/repairs have occurred, apparently without following the new procedures. John Parry will follow up with Rufus on his return from travelling. (3) Snow Plow

Guidelines – Under way. (4) Speed Limit Committee – Chairman – John Parry. Members – Scott Parry, Lee Hisle, Rufus Allyn, and Jeff Walker from MIPOA. Lydia has spoken with the Stonington Police Chief about installing the speed radar sign again next year in April/May to replicate the prior installation and measure for change in driver behavior.

New Business: Jim McAuley reported that Rufus and MIPOA president, Bob Martin, met with him. The MIC is for sale as a single unit including unsold lots, docks, etc. Sale could be to Masons Island property owners, local investors or an outside group. Jim and Bob have formed a working group to evaluate the impact of the sale. In addition to Jim and Bob, the group consists of Kevin North, Kevin's real estate attorney, Jim Kimenker, and Bruce Burge.

MIFD Meeting Calendar: The next meeting is scheduled for October 4, 5:30 pm at 18 Money Point Road.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted
Bill Taylor