

**SHELTER HARBOR FIRE DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
9:00 A.M., Saturday, August 8, 2020
Held Via Zoom:**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am. Seventy-eight (78) voters must be present to constitute a quorum. Eighty-five (85) voters were in attendance. A quorum was declared present by the Moderator.

II. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the August 11, 2019 Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Jack Waters seconded by Patrick Kinney to approve the minutes for the 2019 Annual Meeting. Discussion ensued, two amendments were offered, which were accepted by the maker of the motion and seconder, to eliminate a sentence in Section 8 and add the voting report from last year's Annual Meeting, dated August 16, 2019, as an Exhibit to the 2019 Meeting Minutes.

A voice vote was taken to approve the motion, as amended. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as amended.

III. Appointment of Parliamentarian

The Moderator appointed Joe Rucci as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

IV. Announcements

The Parliamentarian announced that he received three proxies yesterday morning. District Counsel was asked whether these proxies were submitted timely for voting. District Counsel related that the BoG set Tuesday August 4, 2020 as the deadline to register and/or submit proxy authorizations. District Counsel determined that these three proxies were submitted late, after the deadline to register. The Parliamentarian determined that the three late-submitted proxies will not be included in the eligible voter count for this meeting.

The Moderator made the following announcements:

Those residents who passed.

Those new residents to the community.

Thanks to all the volunteers.

V. Reports of the Tax Collector, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

The Tax Collector Harry Gregory reported that all District taxes have been collected, with an additional \$600 having been collected due to interest and overpayments. Mr. Gregory requested that the voters write-off taxes due of less than \$5.00 and any overpayments be reconciled as paid in full. The Moderator called for a motion to that effect. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Bob Palumbo and Michelle Pillager (sp) to accept the report of the Tax Collector. No discussion occurred. The Moderator called for a voice vote. The vote was unanimous.

The Treasurer Glen Berwick reported that he provided a written report to the community on the financial affairs of the Fire District. He made a short verbal presentation and there were no comments from the meeting attendees.

Alan Leadbetter made a motion to accept the report of the Treasurer, which was seconded by Marianne Nardone. Discussion ensued. The Moderator then called for a voice vote. The vote was unanimous.

The Finance Committee Chair Robert Palumbo reported that the proposed budget represents the expenses and revenue needed to fund District activities and explained the budget.

Vivian Duff made a motion, seconded by Brenda Manning, to approve the Finance Committee report as presented.

Comment [PR1]: Please make sure I recorded these motions correctly.

Comment [T2]:

VI. Report of the Auditor

The Auditor Nick Manuzzi reported that fairly presents the financial condition of the District. Mr. Manuzzi concluded that all financial affairs of the District were in order, with no issues identified. All expenses reconciled and year end reporting was in order.

A motion was made by Robert Palumbo and seconded by Alan Leadbetter to accept the Auditor's report, as presented. The Moderator then called for a voice vote. The vote was unanimous.

VII. Actions Required of the Meeting

A. Approval of the Budget for FY 2020-2021

1. Resolution to Assess and Collect Taxes

The Treasurer reviewed the budget as presented and explained the budget in an overall manner. At the conclusion of the Treasurer's presentation of the budget, discussion ensued. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made by Vivian Duff and seconded by Alex Platt to approve the budget as presented, including the reconciliation of accounts requested by the Tax Collector. The Moderator then called for a voice vote. The vote was unanimous.

B. Election of Officers for FY 2020-2021

- 1. Moderator – Tom Lloyd (Incumbent)**
- 2. Treasurer – Glen Berwick (Incumbent)**
- 3. Tax Collector/Assessor – Harry Gregory (Incumbent)**
- 4. Clerk – Robert Duff**

The Moderator explained that since all individual officers are running unopposed, that he would ask for a motion to approve the election of officers as a slate. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the slate of officers, as presented. The vote was unanimous.

C. Election of Members of the Board of Governors (Two Positions)

- 1. Robert Palumbo (Incumbent)**
- 2. Jack Waters (Incumbent)**

The Moderator explained that both candidates are running unopposed. The Moderator asked for a motion to approve the election of BoG members as a slate. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the slate of BoG members, as presented. The vote was unanimous.

D. Ratification of Prior Actions and Resolutions

The Moderator read the resolution to ratify the prior actions and resolutions of the BoG during the past year. After having read the resolution, a motion was made by Eric Aborjaily and seconded by Deming Sherman. A voice vote was called. The motion was declared as carried by the Moderator.

VIII. Old Business

- A. None**

IX. New Business

- A. Motion to request that the Shelter Harbor Fire District engage independent legal counsel to analyze SHFD voting practices and to clarify the ambiguity in the bylaws (sic) related to Article 2 QUALIFIED VOTERS, Section 1 (a). Such legal services would be funded from the Litigation Fund and a final report shall be provided to the District members by March 31, 2021. Submitted by: Dick Ferris**

The Moderator called on Dick Ferris to present his motion. Mr. Ferris explained his motion. A substantial discussion ensued regarding voting rights contained in the

Charter and preferences for providing voting rights, including whether voting rights should be based on property ownership and whether proxies should be allowed. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Moderator asked the maker and seconder of the main motion, as amended, whether to withdraw the motion to allow for a substitute motion to be filed. Mr Ferris agreed to withdraw the motion. Gigi Porcelli, the seconder, also agreed to withdraw the amendment and main motion.

Betty Waters made a motion, which was seconded by Dorothy Bruno, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the By-Laws, Section 3(d), as authorized by the Moderator to establish a committee to study the issue of voting rights and limitations, proxies and mail ballots. Discussion ensued on this motion. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the motion, as presented. A voice vote was called. The motion was declared as carried by the Moderator.

X. Public Comment

The Moderator asked the assembly whether they were in favor of installing security cameras in the community. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the question. The Moderator declared the outcome of the poll was “extremely helpful”, in that it seems half of those who responded are in favor and half are against.

Barbara Goodchild spoke regarding speeding on Wagner Road and was in favor of better speed enforcement. The Moderator stated that he and Mr. Platt spoke with the Westerly Town Manager and the Police Chief regarding this matter. The Town is aware of the situation. The conversation is on-going

The Moderator recognized Brendon Sabatelli for his volunteer efforts to assist him in preparing for a potential contested vote process at the meeting, using a virtual meeting platform.

Michele _____ wanted to thank everyone for participating today and the progress accomplished on the voting issue.

Claudia Uccellani inquired whether any agreement had been made with the new owner of the Shelter Harbor Inn.

Vivian Duff mentioned that the Inn has the same beach passes as any other property owner in the District.

Rochelle Levins asked that stop signs have vegetation removed to improve visibility. The Moderator stated that work has already been scheduled. Ms. Levins stated that she observed or had reason to believe that guests of the Inn were using the docks in the District.

Alex Platt replied that he has not observed use of the District docks by Inn guests.

Liz Miller asked whether the Committee and Agent reports were included in the Annual Meeting packets. The Moderator explained that the packet contained those reports.

Nonie Price thanked everyone for their comments and perspective offered today.

DRAFT

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 pm. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.

DRAFT