

**SHELTER HARBOR FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES  
September 2, 2021, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM  
Meeting in Person  
Harbor Field, Wagner Road, Westerly, RI**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Call to order: Bob Palumbo, Vice Moderator

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM: Bob Palumbo

Meeting will be conducted in person.

**Board member roll call:** Bob Palumbo

Tom Lloyd – not present  
Marianne Nardone - present  
Patrick Kinney – present  
Alex Platt - present  
Jack Waters - present  
Denise Williams – present

**Officers present:**

Richard Gregory  
Glen Berwick  
Bob Duff

**Council present:**

Peter Ruggiero

**Meeting:**

The Vice Moderator apologized to the community for the Board of Governors for not posting the notice advertisement for the August Annual Meeting timely in the Westerly Sun. Without this notification the advance notice of the meeting would be found deficient and therefore not valid.

Peter Ruggiero advised the community that the fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 budget will carry forward until a new budget is voted on and approved. The current Board of Governors and Officers will remain in their positions.

Glenn Berwick indicated that the needs of the budget (last budget of approximately \$275,000) are covered by current cash on hand.

Bob Palumbo explained that a Special Meeting cannot be scheduled for October 2, 2021 due to the 30 day notice limitation. An alternate date of October 9, 2021 is proposed. The meeting will be held either outdoors or in a location to be established.

Alex Platt moved that the Special Meeting be set for October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Marianne Nardone seconded the motion.

A vote was called for the motion to hold a Special Meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Patrick Kinney – aye  
Marianne Nardone – aye  
Bob Palumbo – aye  
Alex Platt – aye  
Jack Waters – aye  
Denise Williams – aye  
Tom Lloyd – not present

Vote is unanimous approval to hold the Special Meeting on October 9, 2021.

Bob Palumbo told the attendees that the official written meeting package will be distributed by the end of the week ending September 10, 2021.

**Public Comment:**

Art Weiner requested the statute for the carryover of the budget, the Board of Governors and Officer. Peter Ruggiero responded 45-2-3.2.

Jack Hardick asked how/when the tax bills would be sent and due for payment.

Tax Collector Harry Gregory explained the process of tax collection in the community. There will be no tax disputes. The rate will be carried over from the last budget and applied. Typically the tax bills are sent in September and payment is due in September. In this case the tax billings and payments will be delayed until revised.

Betty Waters stated that October 9<sup>th</sup> is late for the summer residents to attend. Why not hold a meeting with 48 hours notice.

Peter Ruggiero stated that the Board of Governors has to comply with the Open Meetings Act and the bylaws. The notification for a special meeting is 30 days.

Paul Eldridge asked how the residents are going to vote at the meeting.

Bob Palumbo stated that the voting is not on the agenda and will be addressed at the Special Meeting.

Steve Sweeney raised a motion to end the Q&A session.

Maureen Stifel said she is leaving and can't attend the October 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Karen Matheson asked if the Meeting could be held via Zoom.

Bob Palumbo stated that the state will not allow a meeting by Zoom.

Gigi Porcelli spoke about her email to the Board of Governors regarding the voter registration list.

Tom Lloyd and Robert Duff are reviewing and updating the voter registration list.

Denise Williams asked Peter Ruggiero about disenfranchisement of the voters in the community.

Peter Ruggiero stated that there is no provision for an Extra Special Meeting.

Sara Connor asked about the count for a quorum based on the voter registration list. How do we address the count for a quorum when residents are not present?

Joe Rucci stated that he and Dick Ferris updated the Voter list for the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Denise Williams is trying to determine if citizen's want to listen to Mr. Flanders on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Palumbo indicated that during the week there will probably be fewer citizens.

John Bruno asked how many voters are required for a quorum?

Bob Palumbo said 20% of the Registered Voters.

Sara Connor asked if the nominations are open for new candidates?

Bob Palumbo indicated that the existing nominations remain. No new no nominations can be accepted.

Having no additional Public Comment a motion to adjourn was presented by Denise Williams, Alex Platt seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at: 7:00 PM