



# POQUONNOCK BRIDGE FIRE DISTRICT

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes October 12, 2023

**Present:** President Ron Yuhas, Directors Gale Goode, Al Luther, Jon Luther, Randy Ackley, Clerk/Treasurer Susan Aguiar, Chief Driscoll and District Administrator Mary Santos

**Absent:** Deputy Chief Douchette, Vice President Kevin Marquardt and Director Ron Johnson

At 6:08 p.m. President Ron Yuhas announced the call to order with the time, date and place. Roll call was taken to establish a quorum. A moment of silence and a pledge to the flag followed.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED**, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** to accept the meeting minutes of September 14, 2023.

### Remarks from Visitors:

n/a

### Reports and Communications:

Chief Driscoll's report was submitted, read and accepted for the record. Chief Driscoll would like to assign Captain Pollard, by an MOU, to be Acting Deputy Chief due to the retirement of Deputy Chief Douchette. He also announced there are 7 applicants for the fire chief position. Fire Marshal Bednarz's report was submitted and accepted for the record. Additional reports submitted and accepted for the record were the Budget Summary 2023/2024, the Monthly Transaction Detail, the Inspection Fees and Permit and the Current Tax Collections.

### Old Business

President Yuhas and Fire Chief Driscoll met with Jen Willingham and Alexis Kahn from Chelsea Groton Bank. After a lengthy conversation, it was apparent they were trying to sell more products. After several meetings and conversations with Chelsea Groton Bank, the Vice President of Customer Retention was unaware of Poquonnock Bridge Fire District's unhappiness. Currently Chelsea Groton Bank sets all the limits on our accounts and hasn't looked at increasing them since 2020. Chief Driscoll is highly advising the District to leave Chelsea Groton Bank and go with Liberty Bank. Per Chief Driscoll's calculations we are losing thousands of dollars. He also checked with our auditor and received confirmation that moving the money to another bank was not an issue. Chief Driscoll feels by changing banks we are not only getting a better rate but financial support.

Chief Driscoll spoke to the Groton Town Manager and was told the extra \$100,000 we received is now permanent. The Mayor also increased the Town Pilot money for PBFDF by \$130,000. Chief Driscoll would like to use a portion of the \$468,598 we will receive and

recommends we create a separate account for the Contingency fund. He recommends we take the \$109,094 budgeted in Contingency plus \$40,906 to make \$150,000 and put the money in a money market account. The Contingency Fund will be listed in the budget but will never have to be budgeted again. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part is we are expecting a \$270,000 permit to come in. Chief Driscoll's urges the Board to take that money and put it in the OPEB account to bring it to 1 million. Then the District could skim off the interest to fund the health insurance costs. A motion was made by Al Luther to move the contingency money to a separate account with Liberty Bank for \$150,000, seconded by Randy Ackley, all in favor. A motion was made by Jon Luther and Seconded by Gale Goode to bring the OPEB account to 1 million dollars.

#### New Business

Director Jon Luther asked about endorsing a Town Council person. Chief Driscoll stated he could not endorse a candidate but did write a quote about the helpfulness they gave to the District.

#### Good of the Department

N/A

#### Presentation and payment of bills

Treasurer/Clerk Susan Aguiar announced that the bills to be paid for August 2023 in the amount of \$138,014.30 were accepted.

#### Executive Session

A motion was made by Treasurer Aguiar to go into Executive Session at 6:52pm. A formal request was made for the Fire Chief and District Administrator to stay. The meeting was resumed at 7:46pm. A motion was made by Treasurer Aguiar and Seconded by Director Goode to interview 3 candidates for the Fire Chief Position. The vote was unanimous. The interview panel would consist of the Fire Chief, District Administrator, President Yuhas, Vice President Marquardt and Director Jon Luther and the interviews will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 5pm, 6pm and 7pm. A special meeting will be held Monday, October 16, 2023 at 8pm to vote on a candidate for Fire Chief.

Treasurer Aguiar requested the Board to be advised of any retirements in the future.

MOTION: At 8:01 PM it was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to adjourn. The next regular meeting will be held on November 9, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan M. Aguiar, Clerk  
Poquonnock Bridge Fire District