

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Special Meeting

130 Bonnet Shores Road

February 5, 2026

8:00 am

(A full recording of this meeting is available at www.bonnetshores.org)

A Special Meeting of the Bonnet Shores Fire District Council was called to order at 8:00 am on February 5, 2026 by Council Chair Leslie McKnight. Council members in attendance were: John Chereskin, Jane Duran, Melissa Jenkins, Faith LaSalle, Leslie McKnight and Kevin O'Brien.

M. Jenkins, citing the Open Meetings Act, objected to the calling to order of the meeting due to an error in the meeting year (originally posted as 2025, correction posted as 2026) in the originally filed and posted meeting agendas. The Chair acknowledged the error and discussed steps taken to address it, including the posting of a corrected meeting agenda and supplemental notice. After discussion, the Chair chose to proceed with the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New and Ongoing Business

- **Appointment of Council Member** – (7:30 – 12:00 on the meeting recording) The first order of business was consideration of the appointment of a Council member to coordinate a search for a new Harbormaster, which position would soon become open upon the pending voluntary resignation of the current Harbormaster, Mark Gilloolly. J. Duran moved that the Council appoint a Council member to coordinate the search; F. LaSalle seconded. During the ensuing discussion, J. Duran said that Tony Girardi expressed an interest in being appointed to the position. F. LaSalle moved that Tony Girardi be appointed to serve as the Council representative to coordinate the search for a new Harbormaster; K. O'Brien seconded, whereupon a vote was taken: J. Chereskin, J. Duran, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight and K. O'Brien voted in favor of the motion; M. Jenkins abstained. The motion carried.
- **Harbormaster Job Description and Posting** – (12:10 – 26:37 on the meeting recording) Next, the Council took up consideration of the Harbormaster job description, a draft of which has been prepared by J. Duran and attached to the agenda and distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. A discussion ensued and suggestions for edits were made. It was proposed that the opening of the position be publicly posted, along with the draft of the job description, as revised (see attached), and that expressions of interest in the position, as well as feedback regarding the job description, be solicited, any such interest and/or feedback to be directed to the District Manager. Final candidate recommendations shall be presented to the Council for consideration and decision at an open meeting. At the end of the discussion, J. Duran moved that the foregoing proposal be approved; L. McKnight seconded; whereupon as vote was taken: J. Chereskin, J. Duran, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight and K. O'Brien voted in favor; M. Jenkins abstained. The motion carried.

- **Potential Conflict of Interest** – (26:38 – 29:50 on the meeting recording) L. McKnight noted that Council member Jenkins had previously submitted an OMA complaint regarding the Council as well as a civil rights complaint with the ACLU. In light of that, she asked if M. Jenkins wished to make a statement and/or recuse herself from participation in the following agenda item. In response, M. Jenkins objected to the agenda item and said she would not recuse herself.
- **Hiring of Counsel** – (29:52 – 1:04:00 on the meeting recording) The next item to come before the Council related to the hiring of Michael Marcello, Esq. to respond to an OMA complaint filed by Melissa Jenkins, to advise on a response to a complaint letter sent by Dr. Jenkins to the ACLU, and to provide counsel on any other matters in which Dr. Jenkins may be a complainant. An extended discussion followed about the background of this matter, the process that led to identification of Mr. Marcello as a possible legal advisor, and applicable law regarding procurement policies. L. McKnight asked that the minutes reflect that no decision regarding the hiring of Mr. Marcello had been made, and that the matter was now before the Council for that purpose. Mr. Marcello addressed the meeting and reviewed his background, experience, and qualifications. At the conclusion of the discussion, J. Duran moved that Mr. Marcello be retained pursuant to the terms of an engagement letter he provided, as amended; K. O’Brien seconded. Whereupon a vote was taken: J. Chereskin, J. Duran, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight and K. O’Brien voted in favor; M. Jenkins abstained. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 am.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/

Robert Patterson
Clerk

ATTACHMENT

The following edits to the Draft Harbormaster Job Description (as attached to the Agenda) were approved, the revised version to be circulated for feedback and posting:

- Change subtitle to read: Job Posting Harbormaster (Part-time Employee Position)
- Remove bullet 2 under Key Responsibilities: Enforce community ordinances, harbor regulations, and applicable state/federal boating laws.
- Edit bullet 8 to read: Prepare reports annually/bi-annually, or upon request by the Council. Work with Treasurer to develop robust revenue tracking and mooring utilization reports.
- Add the following bullet: Work in alignment with the DM or directly with the Interlocal Trust to ensure the harbor area is up to date according to our insurance requirements.
- Edit bullet 12 under Key Responsibilities to read: Coordinate with the Town of Narragansett Harbor Master for enforcement of rules and regulations and applicable State/Federal boating laws.
- Change Compensation Section to: This position offers a salary of \$6000.00 annually.