

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT
Monthly Council Meeting Agenda
 Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Date/Time	Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Place:	Bonnet Shores Fire District Community Center - 130 Bonnet Shores Road, Narragansett, RI
Zoom ¹ :	<p>Virtual access is being provided only as a convenience and is not an official “location” where access to the meeting is guaranteed. If any technical, host, or operator issues arise with Zoom, the meeting will still proceed. Therefore, being physically present at the meeting is the only way to guarantee complete and uninterrupted access to the meeting.</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87424760778</p> <p>Cut & Paste URL Method: If you are having trouble with the above link, please cut and paste the below into your browser or visit the BSFD Website Calendar.</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingId=OxIoTSj2TQuUuOB&meetingName=BSFD+Monthly+Council+Meeting+2026+02+18&meetingTopic=BSFD+Monthly+Council+Meeting+2026+02+18</p>
Designated area for recording/ photography	To preserve order and decorum, and to avoid interfering with the ability of spectators to see and hear, any members of the public video recording or photographing the meeting should do so from the designated area.

Call To Order

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of Silence

Announcements:

Chair’s Reminder: Statements read into the record reflect the views of individual Council members and do not constitute an official position or action of the Council unless adopted by formal vote.

Approval of the DRAFT Minutes from the:

- 12/17/2025 Monthly Council Meeting
- 01/21/2026 Monthly Council Meeting

Urgent Business:

Public Comment: Public comment is for in-person attendees only. Please approach the microphone, identify yourself including BSFD address. Limit 3 minutes.

Reports / Updates:

1. Treasurer Update
2. Tax Collector Update/Report
3. Land Trust Update – including outcomes from the January 16th meeting with the Foundation Group regarding the Land Trust 501c3.
4. BSFD Manager and Harbor Update/Report
5. Social Activities Group Update

6. Updates on new/pending legal matters if available

New and Ongoing Business:

1. Motion, consideration, and possible vote on the logistics to prepare and distribute the final letter regarding the proposed automobile dealership to be located on Boston Neck Road. *(Melissa Jenkins)*
2. Motion, discussion and vote to schedule policy review and prioritization workshop *(Leslie McKnight)*
3. Motion, discussion and vote to schedule policy writing workshop *(Leslie McKnight)*
4. Motion, discussion and vote on a proposal to move additional funds to the legal services line item to cover anticipated and future needs. *(Faith LaSalle)*
5. Motion, discussion, revision, and vote to approve the Harbormaster job description as amended from community input. *(Tony Girardi)*
6. Motion, discussion and vote to approve prorated salary for Mark Gillooly beyond March 1st as he assists in the transition to a new Harbormaster. *(Leslie McKnight)*
7. Motion and discussion summarizing the January 16, 2025 call with the Foundation Group regarding the 501c3 application. *(Tony Girardi)*
8. Motion, discussion and vote to schedule workshop/listening session on voting rights. *(Leslie McKnight)*
9. Motion, discussion and possibly vote to purchase Dropbox licenses or other mechanism to provide access to all District digital records for all Council members. *(Melissa Jenkins)*
10. Motion, discussion and possibly vote to provide new keys for council members for all areas where paper records of the District are stored. *(Melissa Jenkins)*
11. Motion, discussion and possibly vote on an incentive to create a digital inventory of all existing paper records for easier Council and public access. *(Melissa Jenkins)*
12. Motion, discussion and vote to distribute the following draft bylaw on fiscal responsibility to the community by eblast to obtain feedback. *(See attachment #1 for Tax Cap Analysis) (Faith LaSalle):*

DRAFT: CAP ON TAXES --The district shall restrict any increase in its property tax levy (Levy Cap) to a maximum of ten percent (7%) over the previous year's amount that is budgeted to be raised by taxation, or by the amount of annual inflation per the CPI index.

The district may increase the amount by taxation by a percentage greater than 7 percent (7%) or the annual inflation rate if the increase is approved through a referendum during the district's Annual Meeting.

The mill rate shall then be calculated using assessed values to determine the budgeted tax collection.

Purpose: This change is a prudent measure to provide for a cap on tax increases consistent with the cap on taxes for cities and towns in the State of Rhode Island. The mill rate in the original Charter is outdated, based upon the current value of the properties in the district, potentially allowing for taxes of about \$7,900,000 (million). This proposal is to ensure greater fiscal responsibility to the community. Cities and Towns have a 4% cap by state law. This bylaw does not change the Charter but reflects the district realization that the archaic mill rate is not relevant today and is a fiscal responsibility measure to align taxes with current municipal tax trends.

13. Discussion and show of hands to confirm which Council Members have completed the required Open Government training provided by the Attorney General's Office, as previously directed by Council. (No cost.) *(Melissa Jenkins)*

Motion to Adjourn

Attachments (1 in total):

1. CAP on TAXES analysis

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
Do We Need a Cap on Tax Increases

• ASSESSED VALUE OF PROPERTIES IN BONNET

• Buildings:	\$439,318.00*
• Land:	\$562,679.00*
• Total:	\$1,137,332,800.00*

2025-2026 Budget:	\$534,000
2025 mill rate:	0.00046952
Max mill rate under the 1932 Charter:	0.00700000 = \$7,961,329.60

**From BSFD Tax Roll July 2025 plus 5 additional properties added that were omitted from the tax roll*

¹Zoom Details

Topic: BSFD Council Meeting Invitation

Time: Feb 18, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

View meeting insights with Zoom AI Companion: <https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=e75b7993-9ff0-41d5-a3ba-5f8d72a5f650>

Meeting ID: 874 2476 0778

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87424760778# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,87424760778# US

Join instructions: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/87424760778?signature=cXmA0_gm6UQNM05I7mAdzIH8VFNMurhl6mzuvulmH-M

² **R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-6(b)**: Nothing contained herein shall prevent a public body, other than a school committee, from adding items to the agenda for discussion purposes only, if the added item was not known or could not have been reasonably known 48 hours in advance of the meeting; provided, however, that the public body may not vote on the added item.

² **ADA Accommodations**: The BSFD is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. Anyone requiring an accommodation is encouraged to contact the District Manager at least 48 hours before the meeting to allow adequate preparation. Requests received after that time will be addressed to the extent reasonably practicable.