

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Special Meeting

130 Bonnet Shores Road

March 30, 2026

8:00 am

A Special Meeting of the Bonnet Shores Fire District Council was called to order at 8:00 am on March 30, 2026 by Council Chair Leslie McKnight. Other Council members in attendance were: John Chereskin, Jane Duran, Tony Girardi, Melissa Jenkins, Faith LaSalle, and Kevin O'Brien.

M. Jenkins objected to the calling to order of the meeting. The Council Chair proceeded with the meeting.

Appointment of Acting Clerk - J. Duran said that the Council should consider appointing an acting Clerk to record the meeting minutes. M. Jenkins said that Robert Patterson was present and should record the minutes. Mr. Patterson agreed to record the minutes of the public portion of the meeting. J. Duran then moved that should the Council later enter into Executive Session, that she act as Clerk for that portion of the meeting. F. LaSalle seconded the motion and a vote was taken: J. Chereskin, J. Duran, T. Girardi, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight and K. O'Brien voted in favor of the motion; M. Jenkins opposed.

Legal Opinion - Next, J. Duran moved that the Council request Attorney Marcello to review the BSFD Charter, By Laws, Consent Order, and other relevant materials, and provide a legal opinion on how to address proxies in the upcoming Annual Election, considering that BSFD Narragansett registered voters have been added to the voting pool. T. Girardi seconded the motion. During the ensuing discussion, M. Jenkins opposed the motion on the grounds that it is the role of the Clerk to decide how proxies are handled. K. O'Brien suggested putting a fee cap on the opinion. J. Duran agreed and, after receiving input from Mr. Marcello, modified her motion to cap the fees to be paid at \$3000. A vote was then taken: J. Duran, T. Girardi, F. LaSalle, and L. McKnight voted in favor of the motion; J. Chereskin and M. Jenkins opposed the motion; K. O'Brien abstained.

Executive Session -At this point in the meeting, J. Duran moved that the Council enter into executive session in order to discuss the remaining matters identified on the agenda. J. Chereskin seconded the motion. M. Jenkins objected to moving into Executive Session on several grounds, and said that the matters to be discussed should be addressed in open session. She asked that the record reflect that she believes the Council's actions are being taken in retaliation against her. She objected to Mr. Marcello's participation in the matters to be discussed on the grounds he has a conflict of interest. A vote on the motion was held: J. Chereskin, J. Duran, T. Girardi, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight and K. O'Brien voted in favor; M. Jenkins opposed.

The Council then moved into Executive Session.

(The following minutes were taken by Jane Duran)

Return to Open Session - K. O'Brien moved; seconded by T. Girardi, to return to Open Session. The motion passed 6-0, with M. Jenkins did not vote.

Sealing of Executive Session Minutes and Report of Votes - J. Chereskin moved, seconded by K. O'Brien, to seal the Executive Session minutes pursuant to R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(c). The motion passed 6-0. Voting in favor were J. Duran, T. Girardi, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight, J. Chereskin, and K. O'Brien. M. Jenkins did not vote.

The following votes were reported from the Executive Session - J. Duran, Acting Clerk, inadvertently verbally reported a summary of the votes below as 5-0 (in favor) during the open session; however, the actual vote was 6-0 (in favor). The record below has been corrected to accurately reflect the votes taken to ensure the District record is accurate and complete.

- Upon suspicion that M. Jenkins was recording the Executive Session, and after no response to repeated inquiries to her, K. O'Brien moved, seconded by J. Chereskin, to require cessation and deletion of any unauthorized recording. The motion passed 6-0. Voting in favor were J. Duran, T. Girardi, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight, J. Chereskin, and K. O'Brien. M. Jenkins did not vote.
- Due to the lack of response, K. O'Brien moved, seconded by J. Duran, to remove M. Jenkins from the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. Voting in favor were J. Duran, T. Girardi, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight, J. Chereskin, and K. O'Brien. M. Jenkins did not vote.
- The Council motioned to implement interim administrative corrective measures to be documented and communicated to the full Council and the employee.
 - K. O'Brien moved, seconded by F. LaSalle, to implement an interim administrative communication protocol for the parties involved. The motion passed 6-0. Voting in favor were J. Duran, T. Girardi, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight, J. Chereskin, and K. O'Brien. M. Jenkins was absent.
 - T. Girardi moved, seconded by K. O'Brien, to implement an interim administrative measure modifying meeting procedures to support orderly conduct and to minimize potential disruption. The motion passed 6-0. Voting in favor were J. Duran, T. Girardi, F. LaSalle, L. McKnight, J. Chereskin, and K. O'Brien. M. Jenkins was absent.

After the report of the votes, Dr. Jenkins began to read from a written statement related to her concerns about the conduct of the Executive Session and other matters. While the statement was being read, the following motion was made:

Adjournment – T. Girardi moved to adjourn, seconded by F. LaSalle. The motion carried.

Dr. Jenkins continued to read from her prepared statement and most of the other members of the District Council left the meeting space.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Patterson

Clerk

Jane Duran

Clerk, *pro tem*