

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT
Bonnet Shores Fire District
Council Organizational and Special Meeting Agenda
130 Bonnet Shores Road
Wednesday, July 8, 2026
6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

(A recording of the Monthly Council meeting is available on the Fire District website - www.bonnetshores.org under “2026 Council Meetings – All”)

Attendees:

Kevin O'Brien, Tony Girardi, John Chereskin, Leslie McKnight, James Hill, Matthew Mannix. Melissa Jenkins arrived after call to order and abruptly left before Council business was discussed.

Clerk Sylvestre called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

Election of Fire District Council Chair:

As its first order of business Clerk Sylvestre asked for nominations for the position of Chair. Upon Clerk Sylvestre's motion for nominations M. Jenkins called a point of order before taking nominations and made a statement regarding the legitimacy of the meeting, (Attachment #1). Clerk Sylvestre called a point of order and thanked M. Jenkins for her comment/update. M. Jenkins voluntarily left the meeting at that time and did not return for any votes for this meeting. Clerk Sylvestre moved again to ask for motions for the nominations for Chair. Motion by M. Mannix to appoint J. Chereskin, seconded by T. Girardi. Motion approved 6-0
Motion approved unanimously as J.Chereskin as Fire District Council Chair.

Election of Fire District Council Vice Chair

Clerk Sylvestre asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Motion made by T. Girardi to appoint M. Mannix. Seconded by J. Chereskin. Motion approved 6-0 unanimously as M. Mannix as Fire District Council Vice Chair.
Clerk Sylvestre handed over meeting to new Chair J. Chereskin.

Announcements:

Chair Chereskin thanked everyone for their support and is “hopeful to bring some civility to the meetings. The stopping of interrupting people, allowing people to speak, so forth like that. So I would hope that, we can have a Council where we can really get some great things done in the next year”. Chair Chereskin also recognized and welcomed the new Council members and congratulated them to the Council and also recognized new Clerk Sylvestre and new Tax Collector C. Mannix.

District Manager M. Gillooly stated he wanted to acknowledge and share with the community the important fact of how working with L. McKnight in dealing with many challenging issues this past year was phenomenal and professional.

Little Beach Seaweed Update:

Manager Gillooly has tried to get the seaweed cleared and has been in communications since the beginning of the season with provider from last year. M. Gillooly understands the residents frustration of the situation and has been diligently attempting to resolve this matter and is now asking and opening it up to the community if they are aware of an agency that he can call to attempt to resolve this matter.

L.McKnight also stated that the Fire District needed to obtain a vendor familiar with the unique machinery used to clean the seaweed.

Paulette Brousseau stated she spoke with vendor who wants to continue to help but is behind. M. Gillooly asked P. Brousseau to have her contact at Evolution to reach out to him to coordinate and authorize.

New and Ongoing Business:

1. Motion, discussion, and vote on continuing Jane Duran's appointment as Interim Technology Support Role including Webmaster, Zoom and Email Administrator, to ensure continuity of District technology support and prevent service disruptions until a longer-term solution is established.

L. McKnight stated that Jane has served in this role when she was on the Council and was very instrumental in setting up the website, managed the email system, provided the Zoom and Zoom feed links for all our meetings as well as served the role of Webmaster. Until the Council decides what will be done with that position L. McKnight made a motion to have Jane continue as an interim technology support role, seconded by K. O'Brien.

Discussion: K. O'Brien recognized Jane Duran's fantastic effort and work she provided last year. T.Girardi stated that this should be made a priority to make this more permanent than interim. No further discussion.

Motion made by L. McKnight and seconded by K. O'Brien of allowing Jane Duran to continue her appointment as Interim Technology Support Role approved 6-0.

Motion approved unanimously as Jane Duran, Interim Technology Support Role including Webmaster, Zoom and Email Administrator.

2. J. Chereskin requested that the Council complete a homework assignment to include three action items:

1. Why you want to be a member of the Council.
2. Pick one or two items you think we should be focusing on as a Council.
3. Which committees would you be interested in working as a Council member.

J. Chereskin stated that this will be an item on the next agenda and emphasized that he really wants to stop the talking over one another and will be liberal in utilizing the gavel to restore meeting back to order to run a civil meeting.

Motion made by J. Chereskin for adjournment and seconded by K. O'Brien.

Motion approved 6-0

Motion unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Nilza Sylvestre, Clerk

Attachment # 1

Submitted by Dr. Melissa Jenkins

I object to the seating of members elected through a process that violated both the United States Constitution and the 2022 Superior Court judgment recognizing this Fire District as a governmental body.

The election was administered by individuals with direct financial and organizational ties to the Bonnet Shores Beach Club while hundreds of non-resident shareholders voted under a system the court has already found unconstitutional.

This denied Bonnet Shores residents the equal voting rights guaranteed by law.

Because this Council was seated through an unconstitutional election, I question the legal validity of any actions taken by it.

This council should not be normalized, recognized or otherwise considered by residents to have any legitimacy whatsoever.

The events leading up to this election warrant immediate review by the appropriate state election and law enforcement authorities. That review should include the circumstances surrounding the resignation of the elected Clerk, the appointment of his replacement, and the administration of an election by individuals who share a common financial interest in its outcome.

The people of Bonnet Shores deserve constitutional and fair elections. Until we have them, this is not a legitimate government. I'm not going to normalize this, and neither should anyone else.

Respectfully,
Dr. Melissa Jenkins
401-497-5841