

Bonnet Shores Fire District
Combined Special Meeting and Voting Rights Workshop
130 Bonnet Shores Road
April 2, 2026

A Special Meeting of the Bonnet Shores Fire District Council and a Voting Rights Workshop was called to order at 6:31 pm on April 2, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Annual Meeting – (Discussion commences at 1:00 on the meeting recording) K. O'Brien moved that the date, time and location of 2026 Annual Meeting be approved. J. Duran seconded the motion. Mr. O'Brien recommended that the meeting be held at 7:00 pm on June 25, 2026 at the Narragansett Elementary School. He suggested a bus be provided between the Community Center and the Elementary School. He also recommended that voting be opened in advance of the meeting between 5 and 7 pm, and re-opened following the meeting between 8 and 9 pm. After discussion, a vote was held: J. Chereskin, K. O'Brien and M. Jenkins voted in favor; L. McKnight, F. LaSalle and J. Duran opposed the motion. The motion did not pass. J. Chereskin then moved that the meeting be held on June 25, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Community Center. J. Duran seconded the motion, whereupon a vote was taken: J. Duran, L. McKnight, F. LaSalle and J. Chereskin voted in favor; K. O'Brien and M. Jenkins, opposed the motion. The motion carried.

Legal Fees – (Discussion commences 33:00 on the meeting recording) F. LaSalle moved that the Council approve an increase in the hourly rate paid to the law firm of Lewis & Brisbois effective April 1, 2026; J. Duran seconded the motion. L. McKnight said that she was contacted by Michael Marcello and asked that the Council agree to an hourly rate increase from \$200 to \$250 per hour for Partners; \$215 per hour for Associates, and \$180 per hour for Paralegals. M. Jenkins opposed the motion and asked why the matters were not covered by the District's insurers. K. O'Brien objected to the motion and cited that no bills or hourly records had been received as of yet and also objected to not having been given adequate notice or opportunity to research the matter. At the end of the discussion a vote was taken; J. Duran, L. McKnight and F. LaSalle voted in favor of the motion; K. Brien, J. Chereskin and M. Jenkins voted no. The motion did not carry. After further consideration, K. O'Brien moved that the motion be modified to provide that the fee increase be temporarily approved for a two week period until it can be considered again at the April 15, 2026 Council meeting, provided that prior to the April 15 meeting, Mr. Marcello produce the bills for work performed to date. A vote was taken: K. O'Brien, J. Duran, L. McKnight, F. LaSalle and J. Chereskin voted in favor; M. Jenkins voted no. The motion carried.

At this point the remainder of the meeting was turned to the Voting Rights presentations (The discussion commenced at the 50 minute mark on the meeting recording).

At the conclusion of the Workshop presentations, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Patterson, Clerk

