Bonnet Shores Fire District Special Council Meeting

130 Bonnet Shores Road Narragansett, RI

May 29, 2026, 8AM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Council Chair Leslie McKnight called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. Council members present were: John Chereskin, Jane Duran, Tony Girardi, Melissa Jenkins, Faith Lasalle, Leslie McKnight and Kevin O'Brien. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no Public Comment for this meeting.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council Chair McKnight handed the gavel to Vice Chair Jane Duran who presided over New and Ongoing Business and moved the council into Executive Session.

New and Ongoing Business

• The first order of business was the appointment of a Clerk Pro Tempore for the meeting, including any Executive Session entered into during the meeting. Jane Duran requested nominations. Leslie McKnight volunteered and was nominated by Jane Duran, seconded by Faith Lasalle. The motion passed unanimously.

• Jane Duran announced for the record that the Council had received the resignation of District Clerk Robert Patterson effective May 25, 2026, creating a vacancy pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the District Bylaws. Melissa Jenkins expressed her view that the resignation should not be accepted. No Council action was required and no vote was taken.

• The Council discussed the appointment of an Interim District Clerk until the next election, including consideration of Janice McClanaghan. Melissa Jenkins suggested postponing the appointment to allow additional interested individuals an opportunity to volunteer. Other Council members noted the upcoming Annual Meeting and associated administrative deadlines and expressed the importance of filling the position promptly. Janice McClanaghan confirmed her willingness to serve if appointed. Following discussion, Jane Duran moved to appoint Janice McClanaghan as Interim District Clerk, seconded by Faith Lasalle. The motion passed 6-1, with Melissa Jenkins voting in opposition.

• The agenda item regarding appointment of Janice McClanaghan as Deputy Clerk for the 2026 Annual Meeting was determined to be unnecessary following her appointment as Interim District Clerk and Jane Duran noted that the Clerk Pro Tempore, could enlist volunteers to help with the Annual Meeting as needed.

• The Council discussed an indemnification agreement relating to Janice McClanaghan's performance of the duties of District Clerk. Questions were raised regarding the purpose of the

agreement, and Council members discussed the relationship between the proposed agreement and existing insurance coverage. Following discussion, Jane Duran moved approval of the agreement, seconded by Faith Lasalle. The motion passed 6-1, with Melissa Jenkins voting in opposition.

• The Council next considered an indemnification agreement relating to former District Clerk Robert Patterson in connection with proxy voting matters. Following discussion, Council members determined that further consideration was unnecessary in light of Mr. Patterson's resignation. A motion to table the matter indefinitely passed with Jane Duran, Tony Girardi, Faith Lasalle, and Leslie McKnight voting in favor; John Chereskin and Kevin O'Brien voting against; and Melissa Jenkins abstaining.

• The Council discussed proposed revisions to the FY 2026-2027 budget following the discovery of a calculation error after adoption of the budget at the May 21, 2026 Budget Meeting. District Treasurer Neal Prescott explained that the correction required adjustments to maintain the previously approved tax increase. Council members discussed several alternatives, including reductions to capital expenditures and legal expenses. Following discussion, Jane Duran moved to approve the Treasurer's recommended revisions, seconded by Kevin O'Brien. The motion passed 5-2, with John Chereskin, Jane Duran, Tony Girardi, Leslie McKnight, and Kevin O'Brien voting in favor and Melissa Jenkins and Faith Lasalle voting in opposition.

• Jane Duran moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(4) for discussion of a confidential investigative matter and related administrative procedures. Kevin O'Brien seconded the motion. Melissa Jenkins expressed concerns regarding prior Executive Session discussions on the same matter. Following discussion, the motion passed 6-1, with Melissa Jenkins voting in opposition.

• While the six council members entered Executive Session, Melissa Jenkins announced that while the council was in Executive Session she would take the opportunity to read the resignation letter of the Clerk, Robert Paterson to those in the audience indicating it was an agenda item that can be discussed freely.

• The Council returned to Open Session. Jane Duran reported that no votes had been taken during Executive Session.

• Jane Duran moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kevin O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie McKnight
Clerk, Pro Tempore
Approved on 06/17/2026