



POQUONNOCK BRIDGE FIRE DISTRICT

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Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes July 9, 2026

Present: President Ron Yuhas, Randy Ackley, Gale Goode, Jon Luther, Clerk/Treasurer Susan Aguiar, Chief Rheume, Deputy Chief Lowell and District Administrator Wanda Morales.

Absent: Vice President Kevin Marquardt, Board Members Richard Marquardt, and Al Luther

At 6:14 p.m. President Ron Yuhas announced the call to order with the time, date and place. Roll call was taken to establish a quorum. A moment of silence and a pledge to the flag followed.

Remarks from Visitors:

n/a

Approval of Previous Minutes:

MOTION: It was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to accept the meeting minutes of May 14, 2026.

Reports and Communications:

Fire Chief Rheume's report was submitted, read and accepted for the record. Deputy Chief Lowell's report was submitted, read and accepted for the record. Fire Marshal Bednarz's report was accepted for the record.

Old Business

a. Final Report on FYE 2026 Budget Overages (\$32,303.00):

The Fire Chief presented the final report regarding the FYE 2026 budget overage of \$32,303.00. The Health Insurance budget exceeded projections because several firefighters changed their coverage from individual or couple plans to family plans, resulting in an increase of nearly \$1,000 per month in insurance costs.

The Overtime budget was also over budget due to firefighter injuries that required long-term surgeries, as well as increased callback hours for fire responses and fire investigations conducted by the Fire Marshal's Office.

The Apparatus Repairs budget exceeded its allocation because of significant repairs needed for Ladder Truck #35. Additionally, the Fire Hydrants budget was underfunded, resulting in expenditures that exceeded the amount budgeted.

b. Transfer of Funds to Cover FYE 2026 Budget Overages:

Clerk/Treasurer Aguiar made a motion to approve the transfer of funds from the Operational Account to the Payable Account to cover Fiscal Year-End (FYE) 2026 budget overages. Board Member Randy Ackley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. This action was approved to ensure the transfer is properly documented in the event it is requested by the auditor during next year's audit.

New Business

a. Permits: The Route 184 project, consisting of five buildings, has received its building permits from the Town. This week, we submitted permit invoices totaling \$444,000.00, which includes the solar project.

b. Solar Project: In September, the Chief spoke with Town Manager John Burt, who indicated that the Fire District is expected to receive approximately \$12,000 annually in tax revenue from the project.

Regarding the waiver of building permit fees, the Chief will send a letter to Steve Guzda, Senior Project Manager, clarifying that the Town's decision to waive its building permit fees should not be interpreted as a waiver of any fees or obligations owed to the Fire District.

Clerk/Treasurer Aguiar and Board Member Jon Luther emphasized that the Fire District should assess its building permit fee and send the accompanying letter to clearly communicate that the Town's fee waiver does not extend to the Fire District's fees or obligations.

Executive Session

n/a

Good of the Department

a. Chief Rheume informed the District that a letter was received from a resident at The Ledges, thanking the Deputy Chief Lowell for his work in assisting the family with retrieving their valuables.

b. The district also received a thank you from the town (police chief) for our department's assistance in removing a downed tree along the 4th of July parade route. Because of the timing of the incident, the tree required removal in order for the parade to take place.

Presentation and payment of bills

Treasurer/Clerk Aguiar announced that the bills to be paid for June 2026 in the amount of \$70,355.32 were accepted.

MOTION: At 7:05 PM it was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to adjourn. The next regular meeting will be held on August 20, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Aguiar, Clerk
Poquonnock Bridge Fire District