

**UNION FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WARDENS
MEETING MINUTES
131 ASA POND ROAD, WAKEFIELD, RI 02879
March 2nd, 2026
7:00 p.m.**

Wardens: Present: Mark Nelson (Chairman), Anthony Manzo, Joseph Mason, Richard Collinson and Kathleen Mack

Others Present: Chief Steven Pinch, Legal Counsel Tim Bliss, District Administrator Brian Mahoney

CALL TO ORDER: Warden Nelson calls the meeting to order and confirms the presence of the Board of Wardens for the Union Fire District of South Kingstown (UFD) at 7:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE WARDENS MEETING:

Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2026 Warden's meeting. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried

Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2026 Warden's meeting. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief's Report

- Chief Pinch started by speaking about the blizzard of 2026 recognizing Chief Whaley, Matt Coyle, Dan Nolan, and Stations 9/4/3. He spoke about still reporting to calls as some areas roads are still very difficult to travel and thanked the other chiefs and firefighters who have helped. This includes over 44 calls in less than a 4 day period.
- The Chief will meet with the town for post storm review as well as put together reimbursement data for manpower and equipment used during the storm.
- He spoke about a house fire call in Narragansett that the UFD stations 9, 3, and 2 reported to. The Chief received a message from Senator Reeds office commending the firefighters for their hard work as he lives in that area.

Building Committee Report

- District Administrator Mahoney reports that the building committee and UFD architect met the previous week. He notes that Martone construction is working on permits, fixtures, and steel package for the Forestry addition. The committee also discussed future improvements at station 9, station 2, and future capital pro

Truck Report

- Chief Cinquegrana reports that all trucks are in service.

Grant Report

- DA Mahoney speaks reads a report from Kevin Quinn. The document notes grant review continues and there is no change from last months report as the UFD awaits decision on 2 FEMA grants.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS

Purchases equipment and services

- DA Mahoney starts new business noting that the 1st item is technical rescue equipment not tactical with a vendor named First Choice for \$1,215.00. Warden Manzo makes a motion to approve the purchase of technical equipment from First Choice for \$1,215.00. Warden Mack seconded the motion. Chief Bradley speaks about this item being a large tire that is used to wheel someone out during a woods or rocky area rescue. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the purchase of 14-inch gasoline rotary saw from C&S for \$1,746.39. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. Warden Nelson confirms the total of \$1,746.39. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Manzo makes a motion to approve the purchase of 20 pairs of boots from Fire Tech and Safety for \$7,720. After discussion DA Mahoney reports that each pair is \$375 and the corrected total is \$7,500. Warden Manzo corrects the motion to a total of \$7,500. Warden Mack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the purchase of 17 helmets, 17 gloves, and 30 hoods from C&S for \$9,580. Warden Mack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Mack makes a motion to approve purchase of cleaning, inspection, and repair services of gear from Redline Gear Cleaning for \$9,360. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. Chief Pinch reported that Redline would work on 60 sets of gear over 2 days. He notes that this would be a fast turnaround time and be a benefit for the health and safety of the firefighters. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Budget related items

- Chief Pinch speaks about increasing the Duty Chief pay from \$125 to \$150 per shift to match a recent increase to the duty driver rate. Warden Mack makes a motion to approve the increase to \$150 per Duty Chief shift. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- DA Mahoney reports that the board and the rest of the UFD team have made good progress on the 2027 budget and the next meeting will be on March 9th.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS/FIREFIGHTERS

- Warden Nelson thanked all the firefighters who worked during the blizzard, noting how impressive the work was. Warden Mack also spoke about how hard some of the calls were and that the firefighters did a great job.
- Chief Pinch clarified with DA Mahoney that the next budget meeting would be at 6pm on the 9th.
- Warden Mason spoke about the parking lot at Wakefield station which is all mud and cars have gotten stuck in. Dan Nolan spoke about the impact of snow plowing and some potential remedies such as putting stone down in the parking lot. There was further discussion about current remedies and what long-term fixes could be made for the parking lot area.

AJOURNMENT

- After all business was completed Warden Nelson makes a motion to adjourn. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian C. Mahoney
District Clerk

Date Amended _____

Date Accepted _____

I, Brian C. Mahoney, do certify that the attached minutes are a true and accurate copy of the March 2, 2026 meeting of the Board of Wardens of the Union Fire District and that they have not been amended except as cited above.

Brian C. Mahoney
District Clerk