

**UNION FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WARDENS
MEETING MINUTES
131 ASA POND ROAD, WAKEFIELD, RI 02879
March 16th, 2026
7:00 p.m.**

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

Others Present: Chief Steven Pinch, Legal Counsel Tim Bliss, Treasurer Richard DeSista
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 March 02, 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 thanking the fire fighters for their effort at the recent Highland Ave fire with 3 victims requiring medical attention. He notes that the fire department has been very busy with calls over the past few weeks.
- The Chief reports speaks about the calcium heart scan with RI Imaging for firefighters to be paid for with grant funds. He is working with EMS Chief Stanley on this program.
- He reports receiving his national board of health and safety officer certificate.
- Chief Pinch then thanked all the members who have stepped up to complete fire watch details for Scallop Shell nursing home.
- He spoke about the High School program upcoming repelling and extraction lessons at the training ground. He is working on a program to get the students more involved in the department side including ride times and engine duty.
- He reminds everyone that the UFD officers summit is March 21st at 12 9am-19pm at the SK Guild.

Building Committee Report

- District Administrator Mahoney speaks about continuing work on capital projects noting that Martone has continued work on the Forestry project. He notes that the permits for Forestry are with the Town of South Kingstown for approval and is unsure if there will be fees for the permits.

Training Report

- Chief Bradley reports that due to recent weather there hasn't been large drills. He then spoke about a joint drill with Kingston Fire completing a tech rescue drill. He also reports the training fire class is going well.

- Chief Bradley speaks about the upcoming officers' summit guest speaker who will be putting on a class about thermal imaging and its practical uses.

Recruitment and Retention Report

- Chief Duckworth reports it has been a busy month of applications with the district receiving (8) applicants and (6) have been placed in stations.

Truck Report

- Chief Cinquegrana reports that all trucks are in service.

IT Report

- Captain Allbee reports there is a virtual training upcoming for the new admin Verizon phones and that Captain Parks is working on some changes for the recruitment program.

Grant Report

- District Administrator Mahoney reports there is no update at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS

Purchases and funding of equipment and services

- Warden Manzo makes a motion to approve the purchase of a hydro ram entry tool for \$2,700 from Fire End and Croker. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Mack makes a motion to approve the purchase (6) nozzles, (2) ball valves, and (1) tip from Fire Tech and Safety for \$7,330. Warden Nelson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- DA Mahoney presents the item to purchase a hotwash program subscription from May 2026-June 2026 for \$500 and to renew for another year would be \$3,000. Chief Pinch discusses the program being used to facilitate after action reports. He explains that this new technology allows the firefighter to enter the report on scene and faster than before and also share the QR code of the report for others on the scene to work on. Chief Bradley also spoke about using the software from a phone to dictate the report into the program on scene which then can be reviewed and analyzed after. Chief Whaley also speaks about the report allowing multiple firefighters to add data to the reports and the benefits of that. There was further discussion about the generated reports being a public record and legal counsel Bliss noted the documents should have disclaimers on them noting this is not a final report. Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the purchase of hotwash software for \$500 for May 2026-June 2026. Warden Mack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- DA Mahoney presents the “Annual Union Fire District Abatements” item that are tax accounts that have been uncollectable for more than 3 years. Warden Nelson makes a motion to close the accounts on the report totaling \$100.35. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve VFW 916 to use the UFD Peacedale grass lot on April 4th 9am-12pm for an Easter egg hunt. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. DA Mahoney confirms the VFW will be submitting an insurance certificate. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the RI Crisis Intervention Team to use the UFD training room May 4 – May 7 and May 18 – May 21 from 8AM-4PM. Warden Mason seconded the motion. Maintenance technician Dan Nolan confirms the dates are available. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Fire Marshal, Tax Collector, and Treasurers Reports

- Warden Manzo makes a motion to approve the Fire Marshal's report for February 2026. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve the tax collector's report and cash receipts for February 2026. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Treasurer DeSista gives the board the report and DA Mahoney speaks about working with RI Energy to investigate the UFD electric rate issues at (2) locations. Warden Manzo makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Warden Nelson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS/FIREFIGHTERS

- The floor was opened for comments, Captain Berganitini reports members have been asking about the UFD New York trip. Warden Nelson reports also having members asking him about it. Further discussion was had about how great and rewarding the trip has been in the past.
- Warden Nelson thanks the firefighters for their work at the structure fire on Highland. He also thanked the firefighters doing the fire watch detail and thanks Assistant Fire Marshall Keith Maine. Keith then further thanked the Station 2 firefighters for picking up a majority of the shifts.

AJOURNMENT

- After all business was completed Warden Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn. Warden Collinson makes a motion to adjourn. Warden Mack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27PM.

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 16, 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