

**UNION FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WARDENS
MEETING MINUTES
131 ASA POND ROAD, WAKEFIELD, RI 02879
May 4th, 2026
7:00 p.m.**

Wardens: Present: Mark Nelson (Chairman), Richard Collinson, Joseph Mason

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

Absent: Kathleen Mack, Anthony Manzo

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 April 20, 2026 Warden's meeting. Warden Nelson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief's Report

- Chief Pinch reports about the recent Southern League meeting with discussion of NFPA guidelines and emotional support on scene availability.
- The Chief reports he and Chief Whaley continue to work with local agencies about mutual aid and radio communications.
- The Chief reports about recently attending Narragansett fire's new station opening and SK little league opening day ceremony
- The SK high school class is reviewing the years' material with the final practical coming up on May 26 and they are also working on radio communications

Building Committee Report

- District Administrator Mahoney speaks about an upcoming meeting with the architect and structural engineer for the West Kingston station.
- Chief Pinch reports that Martone will potentially be starting the Forestry project this week and that the permits for the site are completed.

Truck Report

- Mechanic Matt Coyle reports that Engine 3 is out of service and will be back in service tomorrow, ladder 1 is being stripped and body work has started, and tanker 24 is down with a tire issue but should be back in service tomorrow. He also reported that the rental ladder is in service and Chief Pinch comments that it was used for a call at the hospital.

Grant Report

- Kevin Quinn speaks about Congress opening up governmental departments and that potentially FEMA's grant cycle will open up by the end of May.

OLD BUSINESS:

- District Admin Mahoney presents the March 2026 tax collectors report. He notes that there is no miscellaneous cash receipts because no deposits were made. He compliments the tax collector who has worked hard and collected 97.3% of the overall taxes. Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve the March 2026 tax collectors report. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Purchases for hose testing and gear

- Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve (3) year contract with Fire-Catt for hose testing. Warden Mason seconded the motion. The (3) year total contract value was noted as \$52,000 over the life of the contract. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve adding Fire-Catt for hose testing for \$13,650 to the FY27 budget. Warden Nelson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried. Chief Pinch notes that this is a big step forward in our ISO rating and that a lot of other local agencies are doing this testing. There was further discussion about previous hose testing and Chief Pinch speaks about the new process and notes that new hose is being purchased soon.
- Chief Pinch speaks about the purchase of a leather helmet for the highest attending firefighters as part of the retention program. Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve the purchase of a leather helmet from MES for \$1,279.00. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Administrative items and facilities

- DA Mahoney presents a potential MOA between the Union Fire District and the Town of South Kingstown which would be for waiving locally allowable planning and inspection fees on both sides for building projects not including the SK high school. There was further comment and discussion about which fees would be covered, and DA Mahoney reports the Forestry project would be the 1st waived fee from the Town of SK to the UFD. Chief Pinch notes that this item has been discussed for a long time as both entities are working for the SK taxpayers. Legal Counsel Bliss speaks about reviewing the MOA and that the contract has a 30 day out if the agreement was no longer working. Fire Marshall Bernier speaks about the current fee structure and how processing it works. Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve MOA between the UFD and Town of SK for waiving fees. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- DA Mahoney reports that an SK Police K-9 training officer has reached out to him about using the UFD training ground for dog scent training. This SK police would have 2 cars on site to use for training. DA Mahoney has met with the UFD insurance agent to clarify what documentation would be needed for this property use. Warden Collinson notes they have used the grounds before for similar training. Chief Pinch suggests that the request that a formal request come from the SK police from upper management level, DA Mahoney agreed and will pursue. Warden Collinson made a motion to accept the SK police training grounds use and Warden Mason seconded the motion. There was further discussion about schedule, the vehicles being removed when not used, and how the process would work for training. Warden Collinson rescinded his original motion and made a motion to table the item. Warden Nelson seconded the motion to table. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Maintenance head Dan Nolan spoke about the siding work at the Matunuck fire station. He reports that Tower Construction is on site working and should be finished this week and has fixed other siding issues while on site. He then reports that the heating system is still having issues even after a pump replacement. The heating repair next step is waiting on Tyco to send a technician to the site.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS/FIREFIGHTERS

- Warden Collinson recognizes National Fallen Firefighter Day being made official by the President of the United States.
- Warden Nelson thanks the firefighters for all they are doing.

AJOURNMENT

- After all business was completed Warden Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn. Warden Collinson made a motion to adjourn. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:31PM.

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 May 4, 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