

**UNION FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WARDENS
MEETING MINUTES
131 ASA POND ROAD, WAKEFIELD, RI 02879
July 20th, 2026
7:00 p.m.**

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

Others Present: Assistant Chief Lance Whaley, Legal Counsel Tim Bliss, Treasurer Richard DeSista, District Administrator Brian Mahoney

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman 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 7:01 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE WARDENS MEETING:

Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2026 Warden's meeting. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief's Report

- Chief Pinch gives updates that he has been sworn in as the vice president of the Southern League and they will be working on regional training sessions.
- He notes that 23 members of the UFD worked the 4th of July for public safety and had (4) calls at the field and (4) calls in the area of town.
- The Chief thanks Chief Bradley for setting up the turnout gear cleaning for the district where 60 sets were cleaned and repaired as needed.
- He spoke about the Chiefs working on the awards banquet which will be held on August 5th at 6pm.
- He spoke about the high volume of calls and that the UFD is on track for over (1,600) calls for the year. He highlighted a recent call that was difficult and thanked all the firefighters noting that the duty coverage rate has been improving.

Building Committee Report

- DA Mahoney reports that the maintenance generator is on order and the gate project is moving along with the pedestal incoming for the card reader.
- He speaks about the capital project at Forestry noting work on the gas and electrical lines with RI Energy.

Training Report

- Chief Bradley reports that all duty Chiefs have completed the 6-hour incident command class and there has been positive feedback.

Recruitment and Retention Report

- Chief Duckworth reports receiving (1) applicant since the last meeting and that the UFD golf tournament and award banquet were upcoming events.

Truck Report

- Chief Cinquegrana reports ladder 1 is out of service but making progress.

IT Report

- Captain Parks reports there is no updates at this time.

Grant Report

- Kevin Quinn reports (2) grants were submitted last month and that he put in for a ricochet gear giveaway program.

OLD BUSINESS:

- DA Mahoney reports there is no update at this time on the SK police to use the training ground and asks for it to be tabled. Warden Collinson makes a motion to table. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- DA Mahoney reports Tiger Patrick has sent additional information about retiring flags at the UFD grounds. DA Mahoney and Chief Pinch spoke about water use for this and it was noted that the VFW would be responsible for cleanup duties. Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve VFW 916 to retire flags at the UFD training ground. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Collinson discussed the 2026 firefighters' parade and turned the floor over to parade committee lead Nate Street. Nate spoke about the lineup of vehicles, contacting local organizations, meeting schedule, and new ideas for this year's parade. Further discussion was had about the timing of the parade and getting more exposure to marketing. After discussion of members around the room there was an agreement of the memorial being at 930am and parade at 1030am on the 27th of September. There were no votes taken at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Purchases

- Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve Air Cleaning Specialists of NE LLC to relocate Plymovent at the Forestry Station for \$1,900. Warden Mack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Manzo makes a motion to approve payment application #1 to Marton Service Company Inc for the Forestry project for \$189,002.50. Warden Nelson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the purchase of (6) sets of textbooks from CT Fire Academy for \$1,356. Warden Mack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve the purchase of all weather jackets for the Chiefs from C and S Specialty for \$6,095. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve (2) firefighters to attend long Rescue Swimmer classes in Charlestown for \$2,000. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- DA Mahoney presents the item of approving additional funding for the firefighter retirement accounts from the money left in the budget from the recruitment account but does not have a total. Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve using the unspent funds to go to the firefighter retirement accounts. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Administrative

- Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve listing old Brush 20 on Govdeals with a starting price of \$5,000. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Chief Duckworth speaks about the UFD golf tournament noting that over (45) members had signed up already. Chief Pinch notes that the funds will be coming from money that was donated from a fire in West Kingston. Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve \$4,000 for the UFD golf tournament. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Chief Pinch speaks about the UFD awards ceremony scheduled for August 5th which will include pins, plaques, and a food truck. Warden Collinson makes a motion to approve not to exceed \$3,500 for the award ceremony. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- DA Mahoney presents the NY trip for firefighters related to the 9/11 memorial. Warden Collinson and Chief Pinch speak about getting a list of interested members together. Warden Collinson makes a motion table the NY trip item. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- DA Mahoney presents the upcoming Wakefield Station community event on August 8th for discussion only. Chief Pinch and Captain Bergantini speak about the event and the Captain notes the food is being donated. No votes were taken.
- DA Mahoney presents implementing VFIS insurance recommendations for MVR checks for drivers and updated policy for junior members. Chief Pinch and DA Mahoney discussed current guidelines and what the insurance carrier is looking for. Further discussion is had and it is agreed that more review of the items is needed. Warden Collinson makes a motion table MVR and junior program checks. Warden Mason seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Manzo makes a motion to approve Warden and budget meeting schedule as presented. Warden Mack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- DA Mahoney present the Veolia water rate hydrant increase and notes he has communicated with Anthony Pool at Veolia. DA Mahoney notes that the rate for hydrants increased 31.3% but the DCIS fee was lowered to 0 so the overall increase was 22.17% and the UFD budgeted for 17%. TJ Lee spoke about the heavy winter storm and receiving calls to help SK residents uncover hydrants and that Veolia would not dig them out. Further discussion was had about hydrants being buried behind trees and firefighters not being able to find them due to lack of maintenance. Also discussed was the ownership of the UFD training ground hydrants. More discussion is had about the financial impact of the hydrants, location of the zones, and the maintenance schedules not being followed by Veolia.

Fire Marshal, Tax Collector, and Treasurers Reports

- Warden Manzo makes a motion to accept the Fire Marshal's report for June 2026. Warden Mack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Mack makes a motion to accept the tax collectors report for June 2026. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.
- Warden Collinson asked about the Smithco oil invoices and Treasurer DeSista clarified that was 2 months were of invoices due to a billing question he had for Smithco that they did not answer. Further discussion is had about the RI Energy electric invoice and DA Mahoney speaks about including account numbers in the future. Warden Nelson makes a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Warden Collinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS/FIREFIGHTERS

- Nate Street asked about receiving the funds for the parade from the UFD and it is clariid that he can reach out to the administrator as a budgeted line item.
- Chairman Nelson thanks everyone for coming out to the meeting and is happy to see so many people interested in what the UFD is doing.

AJOURNMENT

- After all business was completed Warden Mack made a motion to adjourn. Warden Manzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

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 July 20, 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