



**Central Coventry Fire District
Special Board of Directors Meeting**

Coventry Town Hall Annex
1675 Flat River Road
Coventry, RI 02816

September 1, 2022, at 6:30 PM

Directors

Cynthia Fagan-Perry-President,
Carl Mattson – Vice-President, Richard Polselli,
Kristen Benoit, Russell McGillivray, Debra Santilli, Ernest Pullano

Agenda

Call to Order	Cynthia Fagan-Perry, President
Pledge of Allegiance	Cynthia Fagan-Perry, President
Safety Instructions	Cynthia Fagan-Perry, President
Roll Call – Quorum Determination	Daniel Kaplan, District Clerk

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Minutes from: August 18, 2022. (Discussion/Action/Vote).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Address Notification of Write-In Candidate request from August 25, 2022 by Central Coventry Citizens Taskforce for Fire Protection. (Discussion/Action/Vote).
2. Ratification and approval of settlement agreement with Town of Coventry in the pending matter, Coventry Meadows, L.P., et als. v. Central Coventry Fire District and Town of Coventry, Coventry Fire District, Interested Parties, KC-2019-944, to resolve unpaid PILOT monies for \$50,000.00. (Discussion/Action/Vote).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ANNUAL MEETING:

**Monday, September 12, 2022 beginning at 7:00 PM
(Voting begins at 4:00 PM)**
Coventry Town Hall Annex
1675 Flat River Road
Coventry, RI 02816

ADJOURNMENT

Cynthia Fagan-Perry, President



Board of Directors Special Meeting

Attendance Sign-In Sheet

September 01, 2022

Board of Directors

Fire District

 Cynthia Fagan-Perry, President	 Gayle Corrigan, District Treasurer
 Carl L. Mattson, Vice President	 David Dagostino, Esq.
 Richard Polselli, Director	 Frank Brown, Chief
 Kristen Benoit, Director	 Daniel Kaplan, District Clerk
 Russell McGillivray, Director	
 Debra Santilli, Director	
 Ernest Pullano, Director	

**Statement of Conflict of Interest
pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-6**

I David M. D'Agostino, Esq., holding the position of
legal counsel for the Central Coventry Fire District, hereby under oath depose and say:
(job title or appointed/elected position and name of board/commission/agency/department)

1. A matter involving the Town of Coventry and Coventry Housing Authority, KC-2019-944
is presently before the CCFD Board of Directors.
(name of board/commission/agency/department)

2. I have the following interest in the matter noted in paragraph 1 above:

I also serve as Assisant Solicitor to the Town of Coventry, through my employment with Gorham & Gorham, Inc. Accordingly, I am recused from representing either the CCFD or the Town of Coventry as it relates to the matter, KC-2019-944.

3. [Please select one of the following]:



A. In compliance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-6(1), I hereby recuse from participating in the discussion of or taking official action relating to said matter. (This does not prohibit participation as a member of the public in an open meeting, pursuant to Commission Regulation 7003.)



B. In compliance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-6(1), I hereby state that despite the interest described above, I believe I am able to participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest regarding said matter for the following reasons:

Signed under the penalties of perjury this 1st day of September, 2022.


Signature

CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 01, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Fagan-Perry at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present consisting of: President Cindy Fagan-Perry, Director Kristen Benoit, Director Russell McGillivray, Director Richard Polselli, Director Debra Santilli, Director Ernest Pullano. Legal Counsel David D'Agostino, Esq., of Gorham & Gorham, Inc., Fire Chief Frank M. Brown, and District Clerk Daniel Kaplan were present. Vice President Carl Mattson and District Treasurer Gayle Corrigan were excused. President Fagan-Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave instructions for emergency exit. District Clerk Kaplan took a roll call.

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from July 18, 2022 was made by Director McGillivray, seconded by Director Santilli, and unanimously approved.

New Business:

A motion accept/reject the Notification of Write-In Candidate request from August 25, 2022, by Central Coventry Citizens Taskforce for Fire Protection was made by Director McGillivray, seconded by Director Benoit and unanimously rejected.

A motion to ratify and approve the settlement agreement with Town of Coventry in the pending matter, Coventry Meadows, L.P. et al. v. Central Coventry Fire District and Town of Coventry, Coventry Fire District, Interested Parties, KC-2019-944, to resolve unpaid PILOT monies for \$50,000.00, as explained by Attorney Kirby, was made by Director McGillivray, seconded by Director Pullano, and unanimously ratified and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lt. McCann asked the Board President why the MOA concerning the Fire Marshal position was not honored and if the other members of the Board knew about the lawsuit that was settled in favor of the union.

President of the RISAAF, Joseph Andriole, spoke about the cost to the District to arbitrate the contract for the Union.

James Kuipers applauded the Board for rejecting Item One (1) on the Agenda.

Danielle Lavallee asked that there be open dialogue between the CCFD BOD, and the Union.

A voter asked if the write-in names are allowed. Attorney D'Agostino replied that they are not.

A motion to adjourn was made by Director Santilli, seconded by Director Pullano, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Kaplan,
District Clerk

David Dagostino

From: pmorgan14@cox.net
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 1:42 PM
To: David Dagostino
Subject: Notification of Write In candidacies
Attachments: CCFD Official Notification of Write In Candicacy.pdf

Importance: High

Dear Mr. D'Agostino,

Please find attached the official notification from the Central Coventry Citizens Taskforce for Fire Protection to run three candidates as write-ins at the Annual Meeting on Monday, September 12th.

It is our understanding that your Board has precluded an all-day referendum in favor of a shorter and more exclusive voting period from 4-7PM. We object to this change as it hampers the ability of our constituents to cast their ballots. Please advise us promptly of any changes.

Thank you,
Patricia Morgan
For the Central Coventry Citizens Taskforce for Fire protection

CENTRAL COVENTRY CITIZENS
TASKFORCE
FOR FIRE PROTECTION

August 24, 2022

To: Central Coventry Fire Board Members

This is official notification that the Central Coventry Citizens Taskforce for Fire Protection intends to run a slate of write-in candidates in the coming election being held on September 12th.

The history: Beginning in early June, we started calling the district's lawyer to learn the date of the Annual Meeting and the declaration period. We made 5 calls that were not returned. Only after the declaration period was closed did we receive a call.

Clearly, your process is defective. Notification of the meeting was posted on your website on the last day of the declaration period. That was the same day it appeared in the Coventry Reminder. That edition was not retrieved from residents' mailboxes until they returned home from work, which meant the declaration period was already closed.

Your process denied our 3 candidates the ability to file. We appealed the denial, but to date the dismissal of our valid complaints has not been resolved. This is an insult to the voters of the District.

Accordingly, we will put forth all three of our candidates as write-in candidates and ask the voters to write their names on the ballot. Please make sure there are spaces on the ballot for their names.

It is our sincere hope that this episode happened due to an oversight and not willful attempt to deny the good people of the district their rightful say in the running of the district.

We look forward to a fair and well-attended election on Monday, September 12th. Our candidates are eager to serve with integrity as they represent the best interests of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Patricia Morgan for the Central Coventry Citizens Taskforce for Fire Protection

William C. Dimitri, Esq.
*Amy E. Veri, Esq.**
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Rhode Island
*Massachusetts **
Federal Practice

August 24, 2022

Richard Kirby, Esq.
72 Pine Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re:CCFD v Town of Coventry

Dear Mr. Kirby:

Please be advised that the Coventry Town Council has decided to extend the following offer to resolve CCFD's claim against the Town which emanates from CCFD's failure to receive PILOT payments due from public housing authorities located within its fire district.

The Town will pay CCFD, for the tax years 2013 through 2022 the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000). Thereafter, the Town will remit to CCFD the amount due under the PILOT program according to the formula utilized by the Town. All future payments, beginning tax year 2023, will be paid within ninety (90) days of receipt of the payment by the public housing authority within the fire district (this acknowledges that should, in the future, additional public housing be built within CCFD's district, the amount(s) due would necessarily be adjusted).

The Town Council expects and demands that this offer shall be conveyed to the entire board of CCFD for consideration and deliberation.

If CCFD accepts this generous settlement offer, I will prepare the appropriate settlement document and court documents for signature and filing.

CCFD should be advised that if this offer is rejected, it shall be withdrawn and no further offers shall be made nor any counteroffers considered. This is, in effect and in actuality, a one-time offer to resolve the issues surrounding the litigation between the parties.

After the board considers this offer, preferably sooner rather than later, please advise and if accepted, I will draft the appropriate documents. If rejected, I suggest we file a joint motion asking the court to place this matter on its continuous trial calendar.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

William C Dimitri, Esq.