

MASON ISLAND FIRE DISTRICT NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING 2020

The legal voters of the Mason Island Fire District are hereby notified of and warned to meet at the Masons Island Yacht Club, 7 Yacht Club Road, Mystic, CT on Saturday, May 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to consider, discuss and vote upon the following:

1. To hear and act on the Reports of the President, Clerk, Treasurer and Committees.
2. To nominate and elect district officers and directors.
3. To transact any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting

Dated on Masons Island, this \_\_\_ day of May, 2020

/s/ Jim McAuley

Jim McAuley, President

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
STONINGTON, CT  
20 MAY - 4 PM 1:33  
CYNTHIA LADWIG  
TOWN CLERK

## Cindy Ladwig

---

**From:** William Taylor <warttaylor@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 4:26 PM  
**To:** Cindy Ladwig  
**Cc:** Ethan Tower; Jim McAuley  
**Subject:** Annual Meeting - 5/23  
**Attachments:** Public Notice Annual Meeting 2020.docx; BudgetProcess.docx

Hi Cindy – This notice will also appear in the Day this week. FYI – Our plan is to immediately suspend/continue the meeting to 9:00, June 27<sup>th</sup>. We'll see what happens then. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders we are going to approve our budget and set the mil rate on May 12<sup>th</sup> during a Zoom Board meeting. That is one of our scheduled Board meeting dates, but I'm going to prepare another notice about that and send it to you to be posted. The attached BudgetProcess.doc explains what we are doing and I'm including this just as a FYI. We are emailing this to our community in the next day or so along with the 2020-2021 budget and a written discussion written by our treasurer.

**Bill Taylor**  
**Mystic, CT**  
**Cell: 860-463-5849**  
**Home: 860-536-1776**

## Changes in Approval Procedure for Mason's Island Fire District (MIFD) Budget and Tax Rate

Several Executive Orders issued by Governor Lamont have changed the process this year for approval of MIFD's budget and mil rate. Our by-laws require approval of both by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Normally, approval occurs at the annual "town meeting" on the Saturday before Memorial Day with in-person attendance, debate and voting. This memo summarizes the Executive Orders that affect the MIFD budget and mil rate process and describe how we will comply with these requirements in adopting a budget and setting the mil rate.

Currently, Executive Order 7D (links to the full text of all EO's are provided below) prohibits gatherings of 50 people or more. Recognizing that this EO prevented town-hall meetings, Executive Order 7I, Section 13 suspended in-person budget and mil rate voting requirements for governmental bodies and allowed the budget-making authority of those governmental bodies to set and adopt the budget and mil rate. Executive Order 7B, Section 1 suspends in-person open meeting requirements.

Thus, the budget-making authority, in our case the MIFD Board, can adopt the budget and set the mill rate without an in-person meeting and vote if certain requirements are met. "Reasonable steps" must be taken to "publicize the draft ... budget...and receive public comment thereon, including but not limited to publishing draft budgets on the website and providing an email address or other means for the public to submit timely comments on the proposed budget."

In addition, Executive Order 7I states that we must comply with the requirements of Executive Order 7B when setting the budget and mil rate. Section 1 of that EO suspends public meeting requirements for governmental bodies and allows meetings to be held remotely by videoconference or other technology, but imposes five requirements: (1) the public has the ability to view or listen to the meeting, (2) the meeting is recorded or transcribed and posted on the agency's website, (3) the notice and agenda for each meeting is posted on the agency's website and includes information on how the meeting will proceed and how the public can access it, (4) relevant materials be submitted to the agency at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and posted on the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during and after the meeting, and (5) all speakers taking part state their name and title before speaking each time they speak. Requirement 2 also states that the recording or transcription be made available at the agency's office, however, MIFD does not have an office so access will be limited to the web site.

Here is how we plan to observe these requirements. Per EO 7B, the draft budget will be posted on the MIPOA/MIFD web site (see link below). Comments may be submitted to: [mifd2020@gmail.com](mailto:mifd2020@gmail.com). To comply with EO 7B: (1) Our scheduled Board meeting for May 12<sup>th</sup> will be conducted on Zoom. The Zoom feed will be available on Facebook Live. This will allow anyone to view or listen to the meeting. (2) A recording of the meeting will be available on the shared MIPOA/MIFD website. (3) & (4) The required information will be posted on the MIPOA/MIFD website. (5) Each MIFD board member will state his/her name and title before speaking.

### Links:

Executive Order 7B: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

Executive Order 7D: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7D.pdf>

Executive Order 7I: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7I.pdf>

MIPOA/MIFD Website: <https://mipoa.info/mifd/>

MIFD Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Masons-Island-Fire-District-108125314222221>