

2012 -- S 2937

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

Introduced By: Senators Kettle, Shibley, and Pinga

Date Introduced: May 03, 2012

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 3, 5, 6 and 7 of Chapter 405 of the Public Laws, 2006, entitled,
2 “AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CENTRAL COVENTRY
3 FIRE DISTRICT IN FURTHERANCE OF THE “CONSOLIDATION PLAN” OF THE
4 CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT, THE WASHINGTON LIGHTING DISTRICT, THE
5 HARRIS FIRE & LIGHTING DISTRICT AND THE TIOGUE FIRE DISTRICT, AS
6 APPROVED BY THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF SAID DISTRICTS, AT DULY CALLED
7 MEETINGS HELD ON MARCH 28, 2006”are hereby amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 3. FIRST CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETINGS
9 OF THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT.

10 (a) 2006 - First consolidated meeting:

11 Commencing in the year 2006, a special meeting of the consolidated district shall be held
12 within thirty (30) days of the amendment of this Charter by and among the Boards of Directors of
13 Central Coventry Fire District, the Washington Lighting District, the Harris Fire & Lighting
14 District and the Tiogue Fire District for the purposes of constituting the first Board of Directors of
15 the consolidated district, in accordance with Section 5 herein and for adopting the initial by-laws
16 for the Consolidated District.

17 (b) Annual Meetings & Quorum:

18 Annual meetings of said fire district for the election of officers and the transaction of any
19 other business of the fire district shall be held. Twenty five (25) qualified voters shall constitute a

1 quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the corporation.

2 Commencing in 2007 and continuing annually thereafter, the district shall hold an annual
3 meeting in a public place on the ~~second~~ first Monday in ~~September~~ October, at 7:00 P.M. at such
4 place within the District as the Board shall determine, for the purposes of: (1) electing a Board of
5 Directors; (2) authorizing the assessment of all the taxable personal and real property of the
6 District; (3) authorizing the collection of taxes, as further set forth in Section 6 hereunder; (4)
7 authorizing an annual budget to provide for the purchase and maintenance of equipment,
8 apparatus, real and personal property, the payment of wages and salaries, and for such other
9 expenditures deemed necessary by the qualified voters of the District; (5) for the sale of real
10 property, equipment and apparatus; and ~~(5)(6)~~ For such other lawful purposes deemed necessary
11 and proper by either the Board of Directors or qualified voters of the district.

12 (c) Call of the Meeting:

13 The Clerk of the District shall give notice of the annual meetings by causing a copy
14 thereof to be posted at least twice in some newspaper distributed in Kent County, and posted in
15 each fire station of the District not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting date.

16 The annual meeting and all other meetings of the District shall be held in a public place,
17 which shall be accessible to the handicapped, pursuant to the requirements of the Rhode Island
18 Constitution, Article 1 & 2 and applicable federal and state non-discrimination laws.

19 Sec. 5. DIRECTORS & OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION – MODERATOR -
20 QUALIFICATIONS

21 (a) The consolidated district board shall be comprised of seven (7) directors, none of
22 whom shall be then serving as a Treasurer or Tax Collector of any individual district, appointed
23 by the respective Boards of each individual fire district and shall be constituted as follows: Two
24 (2) members shall be appointed by the Central Coventry Fire District; Two (2) members shall be
25 appointed by the Central Washington Fire District; One (1) member shall be appointed by the
26 Harris Fire District; One (1) member shall be appointed by the Tiogue Fire District; the final
27 member shall be appointed by the preceding six (6) members and may be from any of the
28 individual fire districts. The consolidated district Board of Directors shall elect a President and
29 Vice President, and all seven Directors shall be qualified to serve in office until at least the next
30 annual meeting. At the first meeting of the consolidated district, the Board shall determine by
31 some acceptable means, the order in which the members' seats shall come up for election.

32 (b) Thereafter, three (3) Directors will be elected to a three (3) year term at the 2007
33 annual meeting and every third year thereafter. Two (2) directors shall be elected at the 2008
34 annual meeting and every third year thereafter. Two (2) Directors shall be elected at the 2009

1 annual meeting and every third year thereafter.

2 (c) Any inhabitant qualified to vote at any District meeting may be a candidate for
3 District office, provided such candidate submits to the District clerk the title of the elective office
4 sought, together with a petition signed by twenty (20) inhabitants qualified to vote at any District
5 meeting, at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting, This list of signatures is to be
6 certified by the clerk no later than thirty (30) days prior to an annual or special meeting of the
7 District.

8 (d) The clerk of the District shall post in a conspicuous place a list of all persons certified
9 to stand for election and the office to which each person seeks election in at least eight (8) public
10 places within the district, including all actively used District stations, at least twenty (20) days
11 prior to the annual meeting or any other special meeting called for the election of officers.

12 (e) The Board of Directors shall have the power to declare an office vacant if the person
13 filling that office fails to attend three (3) consecutive monthly meetings of the Board.

14 (f) In the event that a vacancy in any elective office of the District occurs, the president or
15 clerk shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors of the district within ten (10) working days
16 after such vacancy occurs. The Board of Directors shall select a qualified elector of the District to
17 fill the vacancy ~~for a period of up to sixty (60) days~~ until the next annual meeting.

18 (g) Upon the occurrence of any vacancy in any elective office of the District, at the next
19 annual meeting an election will be held ~~the president shall call a special meeting of the District~~
20 for the purpose of electing a qualified elector to fill the office vacated for the remainder of the
21 original term of office. ~~Said special meeting shall be held within sixty five (65) days from the~~
22 ~~date such original vacancy occurs.~~

23 Sec. 6 DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

24 (a) The Board of Directors shall hold monthly public meetings to conduct the business of
25 the District. The Board of Directors shall be empowered and responsible to: (1) Fix the amount of
26 the bond of the Treasurer and the Tax Collector; (2) Order payment of the district's bills and
27 indebtedness; (3) Be in charge of and supervise the care of the district's properties; (4) Cause
28 district property to be insured; (5) Purchase and sell equipment, property and apparatus as
29 required by the District's needs and budget; (6) Appoint an Administrative Fire Chief, Tax
30 Collector and Treasurer and other employees. No less than one half (1/2) of the members of the
31 Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board.

32 (b) The foregoing list of duties shall not be deemed to be limiting and the directors shall
33 have all necessary authority to operate and conduct the business of the District as necessary, all
34 within the bounds of the laws of the State of Rhode Island. The Board of Directors shall have the

1 power to appoint and/or employ a tax assessor, tax collector, treasurer, clerk, and other
2 committees and/or positions deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the District.

3 (c) The members of the Board of Directors and any official appointed by said Board of
4 Directors shall be subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government, Chapter 14 of Title
5 36 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

6 (d) The president of said District shall preside at all annual and special meetings as
7 moderator; in his/her absence the vice president shall serve as moderator; in the absence of both,
8 a temporary moderator may be elected by a majority of voters present and voting.

9 (e) The administrative duties of these Directors shall be specified in the by-laws of the
10 fire district.

11 Sec. 7. TAXING AUTHORITY - TAX ASSESSOR

12 (a) Said qualified voters at any of their legal meetings shall have the power to order such
13 taxes and provide for the assessing and collecting of the same on the taxable inhabitants and
14 property in said district as they shall deem necessary for purchasing fire engines, and all other
15 implements and apparatus for the extinguishing of fire; for the purchase of land and buildings for
16 keeping same; for the purchasing, installation, operation and maintenance of a suitable alarm
17 system; for making cisterns and reservoirs; for the purchase of necessary vehicles and equipment
18 to operate and maintain emergency medical services; for paying the salaries of district officers
19 and employees; ~~as well as the members of the rescue unit known as Central Coventry Rescue.~~

20 And such taxes, so ordered, shall be assessed by the assessors of said district on the taxable
21 inhabitants and property therein according to the last valuation made by the assessors of the town
22 of Coventry next previous to said assessment, adding, however, any taxable property which may
23 have been omitted by said town assessors or afterwards acquired; and in assessing and collecting
24 said taxes such proceedings shall be had by the officers of said district, as near as may be, as are
25 required to be had by the corresponding officers of towns in assessing and collecting taxes.

26 (b) The qualified voters of the Central Coventry Fire District are also authorized to raise
27 money through taxes to purchase the necessary vehicles and equipment to operate and maintain a
28 rescue unit to be known as the Central Coventry Rescue.

29 (c) TAX ASSESSOR

30 There shall be at least one District Tax Assessor, who may also serve as District Clerk,
31 who shall be appointed or employed by the District. The tax assessor shall levy and assess taxes
32 at such rate as the district shall vote, on all taxable real and personal property in the district and
33 shall prepare and deposit the tax list with the tax collector and treasurer of the district; said board
34 shall assess property on the basis of the last valuation made by the assessors of the Town of

1 Coventry next previous to said assessment.

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

- 1 This act would make a number of changes to the charter of the Central Coventry Fire
- 2 District.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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