

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting January 23, 2017

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of the OC members Matt Thomsen, Bob Delaney, Jon Schreier, Tom Algieri and Ken Martin. Chief Mike Frink was excused. A quorum was present.

Additional Attendee(s): Friends of the Quonie Grange board member Ron Meneo and District Clerk Steve White.

Actions of the OC (all votes unanimous unless otherwise noted):

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting started at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the December 19, 2016 meeting minutes as presented.*

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting is initially scheduled to take place at Station #1 on Tuesday February 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Friends of the Quonie Grange(FOTQG) – R. Meneo updated the committee on the following;

The FOTQG has collected \$4,746.50 in Grange usage fees through December 2016, well ahead of last year's pace which was approximately \$4,000 for the year.

FOTQG members installed a NEST system to control the temperature and wireless system remotely.

A Grange 70th Anniversary event is being planned for the summer. The event is tentatively scheduled to be held first weekend in July.

The work to update the changing area is making steady progress.

The sewer line repair project has commenced. It was noted that the problem causing the blockage issues was located in the left wall of the annex.

The ansele system has been disconnected and stored in the back room and the oven hood has been removed.

The FOTQG are looking to use up to \$4000.00 of District budgeted funds to maintain the facility to upgrade the "Men's Room". The group will be putting together a proposal and obtaining bids.

The FOTQG informed the committee that the current propane provider agreed to meet the lowest price obtained.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer provided an overview of the December financial statements which shows the District is tracking well to budget.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the December financial statements.

The Treasurer noted that the tax lien sale is being scheduled for April and that there will be between 10 to 13 properties auctioned.

The State approved the District's first choice of CPA firms Hoyt, Filippetti and Malaghan LLC to conduct the District's annual audit.

The Treasurer made an additional \$25,000 principal payment on the Station 2 note as approved by the tax payers at the annual meeting. The loan balance at yearend 2016 was \$294,397

The Treasurer noted the bank raised the interest rate on the Tower loan from 2.8% to 3.0%. The loan balance as of yearend 2016 was \$396,664.

The bank approved an increase in the District's certificate of deposit rate from .35% to .50%.

The Treasurer requested that the committee approve an additional \$65,000 principal pay down of the Station 2 loan under the terms and conditions approved by the District's taxpayers at the 2016 Annual Meeting stated as follows:

"Chief's Vehicle - Resolved to allow the District to spend up to \$65,000 to replace Car 1(vehicle) and to allow the Operating Committee the discretion to purchase the vehicle with funds from the Restricted Truck Fund or a combination of Restricted Truck Funds and financing not to exceed a period of 60 months. It is further resolved that if any portion of the vehicle is financed at a lower rate than the Station 2 loan rate, that the Operating Committee is authorized to use funds from the Restricted Truck Fund up to the amount financed for the vehicle to reduce the outstanding principal balance on the Station 2 loan. And it is further resolved that financing expenses including principal and interest if any for the vehicle be paid from the unrestricted General Fund for fiscal year 2016-2017."

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to authorize the Treasurer to make an additional \$65,000 principal payment on the Station 2 loan.

Chief's Report – Third Deputy Chief T. Algieri gave the report on behalf of the Chief.

The report stated that attorney McKinney should have filed paperwork in court on January 20, 2017 to resolve the Bradford Industrial Park/Westerly Dispatch call out matter. To date the District has spent \$13,775.00 on legal expenses to resolve the matter.

The Chief was working on setting up a meeting with Attorney Ragosta to get a written opinion on providing W2s to all members of the Department that receive incentive program stipends.

The Chief reported that grant review process has gone well and the AFG grant for \$270,000 to replace the aging SCBA equipment has been submitted. The Chief assumes the grant has gone to the review panel. No news as to the status of grant has been received.

The exterior lighting project should be completed by mid-February.

The report stated the Chief is attending NFPA 1041 instructor class until March 7th. The classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights. It was noted that the Chief needs to complete this program in order to receive accreditation for future training programs.

The Board of Engineers (BOE) has met and is going to keep Chris Wells on as a fire marshal in the interim until a replacement can be hired. Officer Wells will help bring the new hire up to speed with the position. The BOE is working on a written agreement with firefighter Wells.

The Chief is working with the BOE to finalize a plan for hiring a replacement for firefighter Wells. The plan should be completed by the next Operating Committee meeting.

The Chief is going to look into having Cherenzia create a map of the DCFD similar to the one generated for the Westerly Fire District. The map will be filed with the town.

Member John Merkel is working on behalf of the department to obtain 501c3 designation.

A copy of the dispatch contract was provided for review and comment. The committee recommended it be reviewed by attorney McKinney.

Office Manager Mary Rathbun will be out of the office from February 11th through the 19th.

During the month of December the department responded to 93 calls; 69 medical and 24 fire. The fire marshals conducted 21 inspection and plan reviews; 6 plan reviews, 12 residential and 3 commercial inspections.

Correspondence – None

Public Comments – None

Executive Committee – The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm to go into Executive session to discuss matters pertaining to a proposed draft contract for the Chief.

The meeting reconvened at 8:10pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Steve White - District Clerk