

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting March 20, 2017

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendee(s): Deputy Chief Carl Johnson 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.

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting is scheduled to take place at Station #1 on Tuesday April 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Incentive Program Tax Withholding – The committee continued its previous discussions as to whether or not handle incentive pay as W2 income. Currently it is handled as 1099 income.

The Moderator noted that his discussions with a local attorney who has had experience in labor matters suggested against going to W2s.

Treasurer Delaney noted that the committee has yet to receive an opinion from the State ensuring that if the District went to W2 reporting that it would not affect the volunteer status of the members, subject incentive pay to minimum wage and minimum work hour requirements.

Deputy Chief C. Johnson noted that the department members want incentive pay to be reported as W2 income to allow for income tax and social security tax withholding as ordinary wages. He also noted that department members were unhappy with the committee regarding the delay in getting the matter resolved since the members voted to move forward with W2 withholding.

Chief Frink noted that 90% of the area departments use W2s and that IRS guidelines state that W2s should be used. He also noted that based on IRS guidelines most members would not lose their volunteer status. He suggested moving forward with the members' request to move to W2 processing for incentive payouts.

The Committee requested that the Chief set up a meeting with labor attorney with experience in these matters prior to the next incentive payout if possible.

Department representative T Algieri reiterated his past statements that the department members wanted the incentive pay reported as W2 income and called for a motion to move forward with W2 processing of incentive payouts.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted with 4 yes votes, 1 no vote and 1 recusal to move forward with W2 incentive payout reporting if no meeting can be scheduled with a labor attorney prior to March 25th.

Member Delaney voted No, due to concerns with RI labor laws that we do not have answers for yet and Member Schreier recused himself.

District Chief Recruitment – The Moderator reviewed the criteria for the make up the Chief Search Committee and its responsibilities. The Search Committee needs to be comprised of the 4 at large members of the Operating Committee, the Department Representative, and 2 Members of the department.

There was conversation regarding whether the President of the membership could select the 2 Department representatives or if the membership had to vote on who the representatives would be. The determination was that the membership would have to vote and approve the 2 representatives from the Department.

Chief Frink suggested that the Search Committee use chiefs from other departments to conduct interviews and make recommendations to the Committee. He noted that this is the standard practice used by most departments.

Chief Frink offered to stay on and support the District through the transition process while he was in between careers or until the District has recruited a new chief. The Operating Committee was appreciative that Chief Frink was willing to help out until a plan forward could be put in place.

Correspondence – None

Public Comments – None

Executive Committee – The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm to go into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to District personnel.

The meeting reconvened at 7:45pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Steve White - District Clerk