**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

August 8, 2023

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Station One, Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, Bob Delaney, Paul Gencarella, Dan Roy and Ken Martin, A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Attorney Michael Cozzolino, Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange

Paul Gencarella, Moderator coordinated the meeting.

Actions of OC (all votes unanimous unless otherwise noted).

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting started at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.  The Moderator introduced the new Operating Committee Member, Dan Roy to all in attendance.

Previous Meeting Minutes – a Motion was made and seconded to approve and file the Minutes of July 11, 2023 Operating Committee Meeting.

FOTQG Report –  Ann Bettinger gave her report regarding rental updates; maintenance contracts, maintenance items.

Ann asked status of chair lift installation. She will call the Chief.

We scheduled October meeting at the Grange

Ann offered a tour for new member Dan Roy.

*Motion was made and seconded to appoint Paul Gencarella as Moderator for one year term.*

*Motion was made and seconded to appoint Linda Garabedian as Clerk for one year term.*

*Motion was made and seconded to appoint Robert Delaney as Treasurer for one year term.*

*Motion was made and seconded to appoint Roslind Choquette as Tax Assessor/Tax Collector for one year term.*

Treasurer’s Report – Bob Delaney gave the following report:

The expenses are tracking well against the budget and the rates are good.

There were some maintenance issues that were not planned for in the budget that were paid for.

Mil rate of .3658 with a 4% discount to contracting district for a rate of .3512.

There should be good reports next month.

*A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s report.*

*A Motion was made and seconded to approve mil rate of .3658 for Dunn’s Corners Fire District.*

Tax Assessors/Collector’s Report – Rosalind Choquette, Tax Assessor

During the month of July, the office continued to collect delinquent taxes.

The office started preparing for the upcoming tax season.

The office worked with the bookkeeper, accountant and Mary on year end figures preparing for the audit.

Bob Delaney asked are any accounts outstanding for many years. Tax Collector indicated two accounts.

Chief’s Report – No report was given due to Chief not in attendance due to illness.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve all reports that were given.*

Auto Accidents within the District – There was discussion regarding the occurrence of auto accidents within the District.

First matter was the lack of a merge lane at the yield sign in Haversham. There are many close calls and accidents. Discussion regarding a letter being sent to do a study and to hopefully replace the yield sign with a stop sign to make the area safer. Discussion if the District votes on this matter it may give a better chance of the State making the change. Dan asked if this had ever been done.

*Motion was made and seconded that a letter be sent to DOT and Rhode Island State Police to do a study of the merge lane at Haversham and possibly replace the yield sign with a stop sign. It was a unanimous vote to do so.*

Second matter of discussion was Review of speed limit between Chamber of Commerce and Church. Suggestion was to reduce the speed to 40mph or 45 mph current 50 mph. Ken Martin disagreed Route 1 has always been 50 mph.

*Motion was made and second relative to a speed limit change for the lower mph, however there were three no votes, thus the matter will not moving forward.*

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:30 PM at Station One.

Old Business –  Dan Roy asked about districts without departments. Bob Delaney explained how the four contracting districts work. Ken Martin explained how Weekapaug Fire District worked due to their affiliation with Misquamicut. Attorrney Cozzolino was requested to review the MFD Charter to see if they have State approval to contract with any other districts. Ken Martin also explained how mutual aid works.

Public Comments - NONE

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to go into Executive Session at 7:35 PM for purpose of litigation.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to seal the minutes and go back into Public Session at 7:55 PM.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 7:55 PM*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk