**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

February 20, 2024

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Station 1, Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members – Chief Kenyon, Richard Thomsen, Bob Delaney, Ken Martin, and Paul Gencarella, A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Friends of the Quonocontaug 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.

Previous Meeting Minutes – a Motion was made and seconded to approve and file the Minutes of January 9, 2024 Operating Committee Meeting.

FOTQG Report –  Ann Bettinger gave the monthly report.

They are a few weeks out on the chair lift. Installation possibly March or April.

There is an active rental schedule, they feel they are in good shape.

Status of work being done:

Lighting – electrician should be out this week

Cameras – are all back and working

Chimney – Chief indicates waiting for warmer weather to complete. Mike has slate and Rich Thomsen will get it done.

Asphalt – there are still minor issues that they are trying to keep an eye on.

Front stairs and ramp – FOTQG will pay for. They have a vendor to do the work.

Ceiling tiles in kitchen – they are not putting vents in drop ceiling, just venting tiles of heat circulation.

Bob Delaney asked about Five year plan – they will come back next month with what they might need.

Bob Delaney indicated that with regard to the landscape resolution that in April or May the work will be done. Ken Martin will bring to the Department if there are any interested parties willing to help.

There will be no training at the Grange this month.

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

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

Approximately $344,000.00 left to expense.

Line items are progressing correctly and look good.

CD for $100,000.00 was opened at Berkshire Bank for nine months.

There should be approximately $66,000.00 coming in from tax sale.

$11,000.00 in renovations to the upstairs of Station 1 are being done and coming along quite nicely.

Treasurer asked about the electric bill for the hot yoga class at the Grange. Chief stated that the oil consumption at the Grante is normal. Ann stated the yoga class pay extra for the hot yoga class.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report.*

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

During the month of January the office mailed out delinquent demand notices on all outstanding balances.

The office is submitting a request for approximately $60.28 to be written off on various accounts.

The results in collection resulting a 97% collection rate.

*A motion was made and seconded to write off small tax balances not worth further collection by the Tax Collector.*

Chief’s Report – for the month of January there were 21 fire calls and 9 EMS calls for a total of 30. For the month of January they were unable to obtain the training hours from the computer software.

Past Member, Frank Champlin passed away – members were honor guard for him at his wake.

With regard to the Westerly – Winnapaug Project and Charlestown – Residential Project there is nothing setting in stone yet regarding either project. Both Westerly and Charlestown Town Meetings were attending.

Bob Delaney asked about the Fire Marshall status – Chief states Matt Mani is doing work at night. This is a slow season right now.

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

Operating Committee Members – Annual Meeting – Ann Bettinger indicated that she and Mary Rathbun are working on this. Ann asked how many positions to fill. Bob Delaney and Rich Thomsen are up for appointment. Ann will publicize on website and have all set by June. She will use the Department email for any correspondence that goes out.

Fiscal Year Budget – Bob Delaney states in March they will begin to look at what is needed for budget support. Chief will work on with Department to present to Operating Committee.

Tax Lien Sale – Tax Collector is not a fan of tax sale. Bob Delaney thinks it really works. Tax Collector needs to see how many tax delinquencies there are. She used an example of working on one property for four years costing the district money with no result. Bob Delaney also suggested that any money collected could be used to pay down the existing long term debt.

Sale possibly in July, 2024 or maybe earlier.

Website – Looking at all areas of the website. Reviewing to change different areas of reports. Bob states that financial reports over seven years old can be removed. Chief will update Moderator’s email address. Moderator asked all Operating Committee members to review the website for discussion next meeting

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Old Business –  The Moderator met with two Economic Development Committee Members together with Nick Scola and he believes they are not going forward with 2300 units, but still moving forward on the Agenda of the Westerly Planning Board.

Public Comments - Dylan asked about cost of labor with regarding to landscaping done at the grange. Bob stated it was $20.00 per hour for approximately $300.00, and everyone who was paid did work. Dylan’s concern is that workers are being paid but won’t do the work. Bob stated it is cheaper than paying a landscaper.

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 7:38 PM*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk