**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

September 12, 2023

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, September 12 2023 at 6:30 PM at Station One, Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

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

Other Attendees: Deputy Chief Jeff Thomas, 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.

Previous Meeting Minutes – a Motion was made and seconded to approve and file the Minutes of August 8, 2023 Operating Committee Meeting.

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

Ann reported about the brick chimney.

It was reported that the AED has been installed and the chair lift is to be installed soon.

She confirmed that the October meeting will be held at the grange. There will be light refreshments.

Bob Delaney asked about the ramp condition – The ramp needs to be power washed, the railing needs to be sanded and slip resistant paint needs to be applied to the ramp surface this fall.

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

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

Bob stated a new C.D. would be purchased at the end of the month.

Bob indicated that with regard to the billing fee, QCB assessment increased by $38,000.00 this year and that in prior years it had decreased.

Rich Thomsen was appointed as District spokesperson for the QCB annual meeting. The only known issue at this time is the increased Contract fee of roughly $38,000 due to Charlestown recent evaluation. Rich indicated he would explain this to them.

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

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

During the month of August the office continued to collect taxes and answer phone calls and emails.

Charlestown taxpayers are very upset about the tax increase which is due to the recent re-evaluation by the Town of Charlestown. Any issues regarding this subject reside with the Charlestown Assessment Department.

Tax Assessor continues to explain to them why and if they are not happy to attend an Operating Committee meeting. Mary Rathbun is dealing with them as well.

The 23-24 budget for DCFD increased by only about 2% well below the inflation level for the past year.

Chief’s Report – for the month of August there were 34 fire calls and 5 EMS calls for a total of 39. For the month of August there were 155 training hours.

We are still awaiting the new Car 1 from the dealership, hoping it will be in within the next month. Decision on the existing Car 1 has not been made yet. Use it for training transport, back up vehicle for fire marshal inspections, trade it in or sell it after getting appraised value.

The inspections were done at the schools.

Station One renovations are just about complete and done.

Bob Delaney thanked Deputy Chief Jeff Thomas for stepping up and all his extra help while the

Chief was out on sick leave.

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

Misquamicut Charter: Attorney Cozzolino reviewed the charter online. He reported that their available Charter does not show State authorization for contracting services.

Chief states that caused issues between members not the Board.

Attorney Cozzolino states we should discuss billing. He would not litigate this issue.

Chief states that really there are only a handful of times that we go into Weekapaug.

Ken Martin states there is a tie between Misquamicut and DCFD. He feels you need a good working relationship with other departments. Mutual aid need to be just that, mutual aid.

He also stated Weekapaug went to Misquamicut on their own because they were “crying poor” after their re-evaluation went up.

Bob Delaney indicated that we previously had the revenue and now we do not, but we still have the expenses of responding to Weekapaug.

Jeff Thomas states we need to be careful what we talk about in open meeting regarding Misquamicut Charter.

Operating Committee consensus was that no further review of matters with MFD is needed at this time.

The Moderator inquired on if there were any other contracting district issues to be concerned with.

Bradford’s annual meeting is upcoming and Chief Kenyon was appointed to serve as the District’s representative to cover matters with them inclusive of the Truck and equipment matter.

Jeff Thomas asked when their contract expires. The Moderator states it just was renegotiated for ten years.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, October 10, 2023 6:30 PM at the Grange. Light refreshment to be served around 6:00 PM.

Old Business –  Attorney Cozzolino is still working on retirement matters with an ERSA attorney.

Draft of letter to Rhode Island Department of Transportation is included with these minutes, please review and advise if it is ok to be sent under the Moderator’s signature.

Public Comments - NONE

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to go into Executive Session at 7:22 PM for purpose of litigation, Engine 5 matters, and personnel matters.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to seal the minutes and go back into Public Session at 8:13 PM.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the Chief and the Moderator to present the proposal regarding Engine 5 at the Bradford Fire District Annual Meeting as discussed in Executive Session.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:15 PM*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk