

**DUNN'S CORNERS FIRE DISTRICT  
WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND**

Office of the Clerk

**MINUTES  
ANNUAL MEETING  
July 18, 2007**

1. **Meeting called to order at 8:02 p.m., Moderator John Merkel presiding.**

**Meeting was advertised in the Westerly Sun on Friday, July 13, Sunday, July 15, and Tuesday, July 17, 2007 (notice attached as Appendix A). Notice was posted at the Westerly Community Credit Union, Dunn's Corners Branch; Dunn's Corners Market, Dunn's Corners Fire Station #1 on Langworthy Road, Michael's Shell and Dunn's Corners Fire Station #2 on Post Road.**

**Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was conducted.**

**Everyone was asked to remain standing for a moment of silence for those who have passed on from families of members of the fire department.**

**Call of the Meeting was read by Jeanie Simmons (sitting in for Robert Simmons), Clerk. (attached as Appendix A) Thirty three signed the Attendance Roster (attached as Appendix B – filed with original only) There was a quorum.**

2. **Minutes**

**Copies of the minutes of the 2006 annual meeting were printed and available for those in attendance. Motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Charter Revision Committee Report**

**John Merkel reported on behalf of the Charter Revision Committee. The Charter was approved by the Senate (Senate Bill S-666, effective 6/28/07) and by the House (House Bill H-6282, effective 7/5/07). There were several minor and one major change by the House and Senate. The major change was elimination of a requirement relating to fees charged to Outlying Districts;**

**this requirement will instead be added to the District Bylaws. Mr Merkel went over the steps remaining before the Charter is fully implemented, then thanked the Committee for their hard work on this project. A motion was made and seconded to disband the Charter Revision Committee; motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Treasurer's Report**

**Tom Dinwoodie, Treasurer, distributed the Treasurer's Report (attached as Appendix C) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2007. For the year 2006-2007, revenue received totaled \$576,022.19. Expenditures totaled \$496,726.44, Cash-on Hand totaled \$523,267.61. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as distributed. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted that Tom Dinwoodie is resigning after 18 years as Treasurer. He was presented with a commemorative clock and received a standing ovation.**

**5. Tax Collector's Report**

**Kenneth Swain, Tax Collector, distributed the Tax Collector's Report (attached as Appendix D) for 2006-2007. The report indicates that the total collected from Westerly residents, including back taxes and interest were 99.6%. The total collections from Westerly and Charlestown were \$325,519.41. Total collections with adjustments were \$325,285.86.**

**6. Budget and Finance Committee**

**Steve White presented on behalf of the Budget and finance Committee. The budget (attached as Appendix E) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, including a line by line comparison with the 2006 – 2007 fiscal year budget) was distributed.**

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2007-2008 budget for the Dunn's Corners Fire District with a total of \$562,277.00. During discussion, the motion was amended to increase the Clerk's salary from \$400 to \$800 in recognition of the additional amount of work required to support the Operating Committee. Amended motion was approved unanimously.**

**Resolutions: TAX RESOLUTION - Resolved that the electors of the DCFD hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on the ratable property in the sum of no less that \$353,411.00 no more that \$363,411.00. (Attachment F)**

**Resolution: TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES - Resolved that the District Treasurer be authorized and empowered during the current fiscal year of the District to borrow such sums of money as shall be necessary for the payment of current liabilities and expenses of the District not to exceed \$50,000.00. (Attachment G)**

**Resolution: SPECIAL APPROPRIATION - Resolved that the Treasurer be directed to deposit in the Contingency Fund the total of the unexpended appropriations as shown by the records of the Treasurer for the fiscal year 2006-2007. (Attachment H)**

**All Resolutions were approved.**

**7. Engineers Report**

**Mike Frink reported on the activity of the Fire Department in 2006-2007. 299 total runs were made and 225 business and Residential Smoke Detector Inspections were made. 52 Training classes totaling 525 training hours was completed. New website is up and running. (Attachment I)**

**Motion made and passed to accept the Fire Chiefs report.**

**8. Truck Committee (Ladder Truck)**

**Ken Martin presented the findings of the Ladder Truck Committee. At the conclusion, the Moderator asked for a non-binding indication of voter support for going forward with a ladder truck purchase. The majority of voters agreed that the Ladder Truck Committee should continue working towards a purchase.**

**9. New Business**

**John Merkel led a discussion on issues raised by the four Outlying Districts: Shelter Harbor, Shady Harbor, Quonochontaug Central Beach and Weekapaug. Purpose was to give prospective Operating Committee members the opportunity to learn the voters' preferences, so they can properly manage negotiations with the outlying districts..**

**The Bylaws prepared in 2006 to be consistent with the new Charter were discussed. One change had been made since the Charter was approved, an item regarding fees charged to the outlying districts. A motion was made and seconded to accept the bylaws as presented (including the change mentioned above); the motion passed unanimously. A copy of the final Bylaws is attached as (attachement J).**

**The Nominating Committee announced the 8 candidates for Operating Committee At-Large Members (four openings)**

**Jeff Bewlay  
Richard Hosp  
Bill Lacert  
John Merkel  
David Provancha  
Dan Schilke  
Jonathan Schreier  
Steve White**

**A call was made for additional nominees from the floor. There were none.**

**A motion was made and seconded to close nominations; motion carried unanimously. Motion was made and seconded to hold the election for Operating Committee At-Large members on Monday, August 20, 2007, in compliance with the new Charter's requirement that election would be held at least 30 days after nominations closed; that each voter would be able to vote for four candidates; the first and second place candidates would be elected to two-year terms and the third and fourth place candidates would be elected to one-year terms; in the event of a tie at fourth place, a runoff elections would be held; in the event of a tie at second place, the tie would be decided by a coin toss. Motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that there would be no "campaigning" by the candidates or their supporters at the election itself. Each candidate was encouraged to forward a Statement of Qualification to the Nominating Committee, which would arrange to have the Statement posted on the Fire Department website.**

**A motion was made and seconded to have the Clerk publish a notice of the first Operating Committee meeting, to be held immediately after the election on August 20, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made and seconded to approve a 2007-2008 Nomination Committee consisting of Karl Kenyon, Elaine Martin and Ed Schilke. Motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Continuation.**

**Motion made and seconded to continue the Annual meeting until August 20, 2007 at 7:00 P. M. at which time the Operating Committee At-Large member election will be held. Motion carried unanimously**

**Robert G. Simmons, Clerk DCFD**

