

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting March 8, 2016

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, February 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendees: District Clerk-Steve White; Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange Chair Ron Meneo, Jason Cote from the District's auditing firm of Hoyt, Filippetti and Malaghan LLC (HFM); Shady Harbor Fire District representative Stan Hollis.

Actions of the OC (all votes unanimous unless otherwise noted):

In the absence of Moderator Thomsen, Chief Frink moderated the meeting.

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting started at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CPA Audit Update – Jason Cote lead auditor for HFM provided an overview of the fiscal year 2014-2015 audit. He stated that the review went well with no material weaknesses noted. He discussed that the restricted funds are accounted for properly; the general fund was in good shape, and cash on hand was more than sufficient to meet operational needs. He also noted that the liabilities are well managed impart due to the fact that the District has a “Defined Contribution Pension Plan” as opposed to a “Defined Benefit Plan” which is the type of plan that is causing difficulties in some other fire districts.

Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange (FOTQG) – Ron Meneo representing FOTQG inquired as to the status of the long term lease agreement. He explained that grant applications for improvements to the facility would be greatly aided by the execution of the agreement.

The draft lease is currently with the moderator and pending the review of the solicitor.

The committee noted that a special meeting of the taxpayers would need to be convened to authorize the committee to enter in to a long term lease arrangement with FOTQG. A meeting can be scheduled with a 10 day meeting notice.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2016 meeting.*

Discussion ensued as to whether or not the minutes required a bill of sale to be negotiated for the purchase of the Bradford Fire District's equipment prior to the execution of a new contract for fire protection services. It was noted that the intent of the minutes was to reflect the desire of resolving the matter prior to entering into a new contract with the Bradford Fire District.

The motion carried.

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday April 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Contracting District Contracts – The Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District(QCBFD) requested an extension of the current contract to provide fire protection services under the current terms and conditions from May 31, 2016 to December 31, 2016 in order to allow for adequate time to renegotiate the agreement.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to allow the existing QCBFD contract to be extended under current terms until December 31, 2016 while the new contract is negotiated.

The Shady Harbor Fire District contract to provide fire protection services has been completed and is expected to be mailed out on March 9, 2016.

Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer informed the committee that the financial statements appear to be in good order; that there is \$32,000 in uncollected tax receipts still pending; the next tax sale will be scheduled for the spring of 2017. He noted that he is expecting a decent surplus and that expenses are in line with savings in utilities.

He proposed that the committee request from the tax payers at the annual meeting the surplus be applied to the outstanding debt.

The Chief requested that the committee wait on acting on Treasurer's proposal until after the board of engineers has developed its fiscal year 2016-2017 budget.

The matter was tabled pending a review of the proposed budget.

Chief's Report – The Chief provided the committee with the following update; the new phone system will be going live on March 9th; the grant review went well; and the SCBA grant request should score in the low 90s high 80's.

The Chief then reviewed the following legislation and whether or not it was supported by the Rhode Island Fire Chief's Association.

- H7722 – 911 Funds Act – Support
- H7748 – 911 Emergency Phone System (upgrade) Act – Under Review
- H7807 – Marijuana Act - Opposed

The Chief reminded the committee that the department's annual banquet is March 26th and the operating committee members are invited.

He recognized two past members Joe Popiolek and William Brennan who passed away over the past month.

The department responded to 59 calls in February, 20 medical, 39 fire; the fire marshals conducted 17 inspections and plan reviews for the month, 1 plan review(s), and 11 residential and 5 commercial inspections.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Treasurer's and Chief's reports.

Bradford Industrial Park – The Chief informed the committee that the court date has been set for April 18th; all invoices for BIP have been brought up to date and sent out; and the MDS sheets for the one building on the site storing chemicals are available.

Charter Review Committee – Charter Review Committee member James Angelo informed the committee that due to obligations with a Westerly Town Advisory Committee that he would not be able to attend Wednesday night meetings at the 7:00 PM scheduled time. The matter will be forwarded to the moderator.

Chief's Contract Status – The matter was tabled and is pending additional information to be provided by the Chief.

Other Business – The Chief informed the committee that the Town of Charlestown has requested the ability to go onto the district's wetland property as part of their goose management program.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to allow the Town of Charlestown access to the District's wetland property as part of their goose management program.

Public Comments – Tax Payer James Angelo inquired if the Westerly Fire Department's portable tank filler was part of mutual aid.

He was informed it was.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Steve White District Clerk