

Dunn's Corners Fire District
1 Langworthy Road
Westerly, RI 02891
Minutes
Annual Meeting
July 17, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, Moderator Matt Thomsen presiding.

Legal Notices - The meeting was advertised in the Westerly Sun on Monday July 8, 2013. Notice was posted at the Westerly Community Credit Union's Dunn's Corners Office; Dunn's Corners Market, Dunn's Corners Fire Station #1 on Langworthy Road, Dunn's Corners Mobil, East West Market, Charlestown and Dunn's Corners Fire Station #2 on Post Road, Charlestown. The notice was posted on the district's website and the Rhode Island Secretary of State's e-Town Crier site on July 8, 2013.

Safety Protocols – Chief Frink reviewed the fire safety protocols for the meeting's attendees.

Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was conducted.

Moment of Silence – There was a moment of silence observed for those who have passed on from families of members of the Dunn's Corners Fire Department.

Reading of the Call – The meeting Call was read by Moderator Matt Thomsen. Forty - one persons signed the attendance roster. A quorum was present.

July 18, 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes - Copies of the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were printed and available for those in attendance.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the July 18, 2012 meeting minutes.

Reports

Chief's Report – Chief Frink provided an update on the following items.

- That the department is in very good shape.
- The Fire Department responded to 552 calls over the past 12 months.
- The departments 47 members participated in 1,757 man hours of training and work parties.
- Two unwelcome visitors, Super Storm Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo presented challenges that the Department handled professionally.
- Equipment purchased over the past year included a Rad57 and an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
- The Chief reviewed a schedule of long term capital expenses for the upcoming years.

- The Chief thanked the Operating Committee, Clerk, Tax Collector, Office manager, his officers and firefighters and, all the families and significant others of the firefighters who allow them to take the time to be away from them. He also thanked his wife and children who have been understanding of his absences of sometimes up to four evenings a week.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Chief's Report.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer informed the committee and tax payers in attendance that the Profit and Loss statement shows a new line item for depreciation. The Treasurer reviewed the financial statements for the period of June 2012 through May 2013.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Treasurer's Report and accept the fiscal year end 2013 financial statements.

Tax Assessor's Report – Tax Assessor Diane Nardone reported for the fiscal year 2012 – 2013 property within the town of Westerly had an assessed value of \$980,593,700 and was taxed at a rate of .32 cents per thousand. Of that total the District collected 96% or \$302,728.81 plus an additional \$714.44 in interest payments on past due taxes. The overall collection rate of 103% factors in past due amounts collected for the years 2007 thru 2012, bringing the total to \$326,511.58. For the town of Charlestown property had an assessed value of \$651,968,300 and was taxed at a rate of \$.40 cents per thousand establishing an amount for collection of \$262,312.60. The District collected 97% or \$255,222.89 in principal and \$468.78 in interest on past due taxes. The overall collection rate of 102% or \$267,695.46 factors in past due amounts collected for the years 2007 thru 2012. In addition the District collected fees of \$20,598.06 associated with the tax sale for the 2011 & 2012 tax year. Total collections for Fiscal Year 2012 were \$614,805.10.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted accept the Tax Assessor's Report.

Financial Plan and Operating Budget 2013/2014 – The Chief reviewed the proposed budget with the committee developed by him and the board of engineers. The draft budget totaled \$787,380.00 which is an increase of \$70,054.00 over the 2012/2013 budget.

Engine 4 Replacement Presentation: A presentation by: Lieutenant Jeff Thomas, Lieutenant Chris Wells, Captain Jim Westervelt and Chief Mike Frink illustrating the District's need to replace Engine 4 was made to the meeting's attendees.

- A. Purchase of New Engine 4** - Resolved that the District purchase a new pumper truck as described by the presentation and expend up to \$600,000 to purchase and equip said truck. Further Resolved to have the OC finance up to 90% of the purchase price of said truck and use up to \$60,000 of the restricted truck fund as a deposit.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented, with one opposed.

B. 2013-2014 Financial Plan and Operation Budget - Resolved that the financial plan and budget for financial year 2013-2014 be approved as presented.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented., with one opposed.

Resolutions:

Fire Hose Replacement - Resolved to use up to \$20,000 of the Equipment restricted fund to replace old hoses to meet NFPA 1962 Code requirements.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Seal Coating – Resolved to expend up to \$5,000 from the building restricted fund to seal coat station 1.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Station One Evaluation – Resolved to expend up to \$30,000 from the building restricted fund to move forward on improvements to Station 1 asphalt.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Pay down on Station 2 Loan - Resolved to leave it to the OC's discretion to paydown up to \$15,000 on the principal owed on the Station 2 loan from the general fund.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Authority To Access Restricted Funds for Unanticipated Repairs - Resolved that the Operating Committee be given the authority to access the Restricted Truck Fund for up to \$10,000.00 to mitigate unanticipated truck repairs and the Restricted Equipment Fund for up to \$5,000.00 to mitigate unanticipated equipment repairs that may occur between Annual Meetings.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Ratification and Approval of Acts of Officers - Resolved that each and all of the resolutions, acts and proceedings of the District Officers, as shown by the records of the respective officers in carrying out and promoting the purposes, objects and interests of the Dunn's Corners Fire District, be and the same approved, ratified and hereby made the acts and deeds of the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Authorization of Representation - Resolved that the moderator, or such person or persons as the Operating Committee or the Moderator shall designate, be and hereby are fully authorized and empowered to enter objections or legal actions on behalf of the Dunn's Corners Fire District

in reference to any zoning matters, liquor licenses, legislative matters, or any other subject affecting the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

A motion was made, seconded, followed by discussion with a motion to amend which failed to carry. The original motion as written was allowed to stand and was so voted to approve, with one opposed.

Tax Resolution - Resolved that the taxable inhabitants of said District qualified to vote on any proposition to impose tax, in District meeting legally assembled on the 17th day of July, A.D., 2013, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on the taxable inhabitants and property in the sum of not less than \$614,027 nor more than \$638,588. Said tax is for ordinary expenses of interest and charges, for the payment of interest and indebtedness in whole or in part of said District and for other purposes authorized by law. The Assessor shall assess and apportion said tax on the inhabitants and ratable property of said District of the 31st day of December, 2012, at 12:00 o'clock Noon, according to law, and shall, on completion of said assessment, date, certify, and sign the same and deliver to and deposit the same in the office of the District Clerk on or before the 15th day of August, A.D. 2013. The District Clerk, on receipt of said assessment, shall forthwith make a copy of the same and deliver it to the District Treasurer, who shall forthwith issue and affix to said copy a warrant under his hand, directed to the Collector of Taxes of said District commanding him to proceed and collect said tax on the persons and estates liable therefore. Said tax shall be due and payable on and between the first day of September next and the 30th day of September, 2013, and all taxes remaining unpaid on said 30th day of September, A.D. 2012, shall carry, until collected, a penalty at the rate of twelve per centum (12%) per annum upon such unpaid tax. A \$2.00 handling fee will be imposed on reissued tax bills sent for collection purposes. No tax bill sent out shall be less than five and 00/100 (5.00) dollars

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Special Appropriation - Resolved that the Treasurer be directed to deposit in the Unrestricted General Fund Surplus the total of the unexpended appropriations as shown by the records of the Treasurer for the fiscal year 2012-2013, and all other monies collected during said fiscal year, but not otherwise appropriated. Provided, however, that prior to January 1, 2014, the Treasurer is authorized to use such portion of said sum of unexpended appropriations and other monies not otherwise appropriated as he or she deems necessary in anticipation of receipt of taxes assessed December 31, 2012.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Tax Anticipation Note - Resolved that the District Treasurer be and hereby is authorized and empowered during the current fiscal year of the District, commencing June 1, 2013, and ending May 31, 2014, to borrow such sum or sums of money as shall be necessary for the payment of the current liabilities and expenses of the District, but not to exceed in the whole the sum of Fifty Thousand and No/100 (\$50,000) Dollars and to issue negotiable promissory note or notes of the

District therefore, which shall be made payable not later than one (1) year from the respective date or dates thereof. Negotiable notes issued pursuant to the authority hereof shall be signed by the District Treasurer and countersigned by the District Clerk, and such countersignatures shall be conclusive evidence to all holders of such note or notes of the approval and consent of the District and the District Officers to the loan or loans evidenced thereby. All terms and conditions of said note or notes and the method of sale thereof not fixed herein or by the provisions of law or the charter of the District may be fixed by the District Treasurer. The District Treasurer is hereby authorized and empowered to renew any of said notes from time to time, but any such renewal note shall be due not later than one (1) year of the original note so renewed.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Awards and Recognition

A. Swearing in of Line Officers

Deputy Chiefs: Keith Kenyon, Carl Johnson, Tom Algieri
Capt. Station 1 Dan Schilike, Capt. Station 2 Jim Westervelt
LT Station 1 Jeff Thomas 2 LT Station 1 Paul Senita
LT Station 2 Chis Wells 2 LT Station 2 Keith Moody
Fire Police Capt. Bob Delaney LT John Crandall

Election of officers – Andy Schilke distributed Dunn’s Corners Fire District Election Ballots. The electors were instructed to vote for up to two (2) candidates for a two year term on the Operating Committee.

The voting tallies are as follows:

James Angelo (3)
Kenneth Martin (37)
Matthew Thomsen (40)

The voters re-elected both Ken Martin and Matt Thomsen as At Large Members of the Operating Committee for two year terms expiring in 2015.

Old Business

Tax Credit – A Credit will be given tax payers that were charged and paid a minimum payment of \$25.00 in 2012 tax year. A refund will be given by request only.

New Business

Election of the Nominating Committee

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the 2013-14 Nominating Committee of Andy Schilke, Gina Laudone, and Art Ganz.

Public Comments

Fire District resident Nancy Schilke personally thanked the EMS crew that responded to a life threatening fall her sister experienced on April 15, 2013.

“Dunn’s Corners Fire Department EMS crew responded two to three minutes faster than the ambulance that had to come from Charlestown. Westerly’s ambulances and EMS crew were already out on other calls. Our Dunn’s Corners crew arrived at her sister’s home and took action immediately saving her sister from profuse bleeding and helping with positioning of her body to best protect her airway.

With their excellent competence and quick response a tragedy was avoided. We are very fortunate in our community to have this service. One doesn’t know how very valuable this service is until a need arise for their educated crew and quick response.

Thank you ever so much for making a positive difference in the life of our community by caring enough to provide this life saving care.”

Fire District resident James Angelo asked the Operating Committee to consider consolidation. “This is on the horizon, “he said. “You can’t continue to put your head in the sand and ignore the situation.” The Operating Committee said they would look into it, with a short discussion.

Members of the Operating Committee stated they were open to it, however it is a complicated matter as some districts include trash pickup service along with private beaches and other non-emergency service expenses. They won't want to share their beaches. Additionally ours is the lowest tax rate district in the area. We would need to be very careful so that there would not be an increase to our taxpayers' rates from a consolidation.

Good of the Order: Chief Frink announced the annual Karl Kenyon Smokey Bear Parade is being held Thursday, July 18, 2013 from Station 1 at 5:00 PM. During the parade’s scheduled stops they will be doing a “Boot Drive” for the fallen Arizonans firefighters (Arizona19).

Adjournment:

A motion was made seconded and so voted by acclamation to adjourn the Annual Meeting of the Dunn’s Corners Fire District at 8:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Rathbun

District Clerk Pro-tem