

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Road

Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes

Operating Committee Meeting

February 13, 2018

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Rich Thomsen, Bob Delaney, interim Chief Carl Johnson, Ken Martin, and Matt Thomsen. Committee member Jeff Thomas was excused. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Incoming Chief Chris DeGrave, Ron Meneo representing FOTQG, Lt Dan Schilke and Steve White District Clerk.

Actions of OC (all votes unanimous unless otherwise noted).

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting started as 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *Tabled*

Friends of the Quonchontaug Grange (FOTQG) – Ron Meneo spoke on behalf of the FOTQG, providing an oral report and written outline on the following:

Grange revenues through January 31, 2018 totaled \$6,059.58 and utility reimbursements have been received totaling \$385.90.

A thank you letter was received from the Johnny Cake Center in appreciation of the donation kitchenware.

The proposed parking lot expansion has been put on hold until weather permits.

Regarding the facility; the audio-visual installation is complete; the interior of both the main and lower levels have been re-painted; the first movie night was held February 9th with 40 people in attendance; a new toilet has been installed in the Lady's room; kitchen upgrade planning continues, and a rough floor plan draft has been developed; and other improvement projects are being discussed.

The FOTQG extended an invitation to the Operating Committee to hold an upcoming Operating Committee maybe in April at the Grange facility.

FOTQG has submitted a grant request to the Ocean State Cultural Trust for funding to support the kitchen upgrades.

The Committee thanked Mr. Meneo for all of FOTQG efforts.

Water Supply Board Update – R. Meneo informed the committee that the proposed contract between the Narragansett Tribe and Invenenergy has been canceled.

Treasurer's Report – B. Delaney noted that expenses are tracking well to budget and that the tax collection rate is currently running at 96% for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

He stated there are sufficient funds for the District to make the tax payer approved additional \$10,000 principal payment on the Station 2 loan, reducing the balance to approximately \$184,000.

The Treasurer discussed potential expenses for the purchase and/or upgrade of PPE equipment. Currently the Department is effectively reallocating resources and equipment to help mitigate the expenses.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to accept the Treasurer's report.

Chief's Report – Interim-Chief Johnson reported that he is working with former Chief Frink and the officers to have everything in place for the new Chief and that they have been working with the incoming Chief to make the transition a smooth one.

He reported that there should be some PR coming from the Westerly Sun regarding a joint training exercise with the Hope Valley department at a donated house; a truck equipment inventory is being conducted; and the security upgrades for the stations are being done which will include a camera at the Valenti Auto dealership across the street from Station 1.

Additionally, Interim-Chief Johnson informed the committee that a date for the department's physicals has been established and 30 members have signed up. The cost for the test will be \$350.00 per member. He invited the Operating Committee members to participate.

During the months of January there were 23 commercial and residential fire inspections and 4 plan reviews; 30 fire calls; and 36 BLS calls.

Tower Truck Repairs – The Chief asked Lieutenant Schilke to update the committee on mechanical issues with the Tower Truck. He noted that it currently was checked out and has 9 deficiencies. The big concern revolved around the "main swivel" which had estimated repair costs of between \$13,000 for rebuilt parts or \$24,000 for new parts. Further inspection revealed that the problem was not the swivel but the hoses. Hose replacement is estimated to be approximately \$3,400. Additionally, it was recommended that the bearings be worked on at the same time, approximate cost between \$5,400 to \$6,950. The Lieutenant Schilke felt that the repairs at this time could be handled through the maintenance budget.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to accept the Chief's report.

Moderator's Report – The Moderator introduced incoming Chief Chris DeGrave at the meeting and discussed plans for the swearing in ceremony.

He informed the committee that he was trying set up another meeting with the Westerly Ambulance Corp (WAC) to try and come to a final resolution on a new dispatch agreement.

Chief DeGrave thanked the Operating Committee for the process and the opportunity. He also thanked the officers, members and staff of the Department for their support in getting started with his new role as Chief of the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the moderators report

Other Business

In coming Chief DeGrave informed the committee that he is working on a “Master Leadership” plan with former Chief Frink, Interim Chief Johnson and the officers.

The Committee designated office manager Mary Rathbun as the filing coordinator with the State of Rhode Island's Secretary of State's office.

Treasurer Delaney noted that the department still needed to file its 990.

The Committee discussed the upcoming 75th year anniversary for the department and possibly making some donations to charity as part of the celebration process.

Public Comments – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Steve White, District Clerk