

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Road

Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes

Operating Committee Meeting

November 19, 2012

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Monday November 19, 2012 at 7:00 PM, in Fire Station #1.

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

Additional attendees included District Counsel Attorney Vincent Naccarato, District Clerk Steve White and the following representatives of the Bradford Fire District; Frank Manfred Moderator, Albert Clemence, Brian O'Rourke, and Frank Algieri.

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

Agenda Items

Previous Meeting Minutes - *A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the October 15, 2012 meeting minutes.*

Next Operating Committee Meeting - The next meeting of the Operating Committee is to be determined.

Bradford Fire District – The committee met with representatives of the Bradford Fire District to begin initial conversations about the possibility of consolidation. Moderator Thomsen welcomed the BFD representatives and a question and answer session then ensued. The discussion touched on the following topics;

- The existing BFD Fire Station and the pending sale of the land it is located on.
- The BFD members and their feelings on consolidation
- An upcoming BFD third party assessment as to the proper level of resources required to support the district. DCFD may be included in this process.
- There was discussion about all of the BFD district assets owned and the potential in the event of consolidation of the establishment of a substation.
- The tax status of BDA.
- The general disposition of the BFD taxpayers towards consolidation.

The discussion concluded with the following being agreed to in principle; that the independent third party assessment being conducted by BDA be the starting point for future discussions; that the tax status of BDA be determined, that a survey of the BFD tax payers be conducted; and there be input from both the DCFD and the BFD members in

the process. It was also made clear to the representatives of BFD that the DCFD would be there to support their members and tax payers with fire fighter support if called upon to do so during this time of transition.

Financial Statements – The committee received, reviewed and accepted the financial statements for the reporting period June 2012 through October 2012. Treasurer Delaney informed the committee that the CPA Audit was currently underway, that issues related to the previous year's tax sale were with the district's attorney, and that the current year's tax schedule will commence along same basic time line as the previous year's.

Tax Collector – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to appoint Diane Nardone as the Tax Assessor/Collector of the Dunn' Corners Fire District with moderator Thomsen abstaining due to a potential conflict of interest.*

Chief's Report – The Chief informed the committee that the department weathered "Super Storm Sandy" well. The new generator worked but additional work will be needed to be done to some of the subpanels to get all the required systems tied into the generator. The department responded to 90 storm related calls and that the expenses for the storm are being accounted for separately. The Chief informed the committee that the Dunn's Corners Market donated at least \$600.00 worth of food to feed the responders working at Station 1. The committee suggested that as a thank you, the Spino's be recognized and invited to the Department's Christmas Party. The party is being held on December 8th at Haversham Tavern.

The committee was apprised that the USAR and National Guard used Station 1 as a staging area and the members of those organizations contributed \$132.00 towards meal expenses. The newly acquired ATV was put to its first use on the beach during the storm and performed well.

Additionally, the Chief informed the committee that the Tanker 1 upgrades are 95% complete and are proceeding as planned thanks to the great job being done by Captain Dan Schilke.

The Chief discussed the pros and cons regarding the three architectural firm bids received to develop plans for Station 1 upgrades. After reviewing the information with the committee the Chief recommended proceeding with Lawrence Associates.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Chief's recommendation to have Lawrence Associates develop the phase 1 architectural plans for station 1 upgrades.

In conclusion the Chief informed the committee that he has been elected to the positions 2nd Vice President of the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs and Vice President of the Southern League.

Old Business

Abatement Request - The Treasurer read to the committee a follow up letter sent by Mr. Piezzo of Shore Rd requesting the abatement of the minimum tax amounts that he was assessed for the multiple lots he owns within the district. The committee asked the Treasurer to respond and inform Mr. Piezzo that the amount was set by the tax payers and that the Operating Committee did not have the authority to overturn a vote of tax payers. Additionally, that if he felt strongly about the matter he should bring it up at the next annual meeting.

Grange Abatement – The Moderator will contact the town of Charlestown about the possibility of the DCFD receiving a tax abatement for the Grange.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm
Respectfully Submitted,

Steve White
District Clerk