

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Road

Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes

Operating Committee Meeting

June 10, 2013

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Monday June 10, 2013 at 7:00 PM, in Fire Station #1.

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

Additional attendees included District Clerk Steve White, and from the DCFD Engine 4 Replacement Committee, members Retired Deputy Chief Ted Burke, Captain Dan Schilke and Lieutenants Jeff Thomas and Chris Wells.

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 May 13, 2013 meeting minutes with the following change to the section Chief's Report.*

- *"The Chief had gone to Washington DC as part of RIAFC advocacy program to meet with legislators about the importance of the 50/50 grant programs."*
- *"Tax payer approved renovations to the Grange building to bring it up to fire code and improve access and egress are in progress."*

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the May 13, 2013 Minutes as revised.

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

Financial Statements – The financial statements for the period of June 2012 through May 2013 were not complete as of the date of the meeting and will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Committee.

Treasurer – The Treasurer informed the Committee the past due tax level prior years is at an all time low of \$317.10. The Treasurer requested that the bookkeeper be given on line "view only access" to the District's bank accounts.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to give the District's bookkeeper on line view only access to the District's bank accounts.

Rebate of Tax Sale Proceeds Request – Kenneth Johnson of 123 Pequot Dr in Charlestown RI brought to the Committee’s attention that of the three lots he had purchased at the 2013 tax sale the one which he paid \$700.00 for was listed as currently owned by the Town of Westerly. The previous owners had been Anderson Builders. Mr. Johnson was looking for the Committee to rebate the \$700.00. Because it is up to the purchaser to do the necessary due diligence on properties put up for tax sale the Treasurer informed Mr. Johnson that the District’s Solicitor did not believe that District should rebate the amount and set a president. Moderator Thomsen stated he would look into the matter further.

Chief’s Report –The Chief’s report provided the committee with an update on the following items;

- The Chief informed the committee that the department has been responding to all EMS calls in the district and that over the past two weeks the department was involved in two emergency rescue events.
- There is currently state tax Legislation pending that would limit tax increases for fire districts to 4% annually without legislative approval. This presents a problem for small budget districts such as Dunn’s Corners. Based on the current budget this would only allow for an increase of between \$28,000 and \$29,000. This could become problematic for example if a major piece of equipment needed to be replaced or repaired.
- The RIAFC is in favor of legislation being proposed known as Fire and Duties of Fire Districts which allows for tiered tax structures.
- The Chief informed the committee that the District and its Station 1 neighbor Randall Realty have agreed to share the costs for the removal of a tree that spans both properties and is presenting a potential hazard.
- Tax payer approved renovations to the Grange building to bring it up to fire code and improve access and egress are still in progress.

Charter Review Committee - The Chief volunteered to be a member of the Charter review committee.

Administrative Assistant’s Tasks Update – This matter relates to the documentation of procedures as noted in the 2012 CPA audit. There was no update at this time.

Review of Tax Exempt Status Dunn’s Corners Fire Department – Moderator Thomsen had researched the project and charged the Clerk to work with the District’s CPA to firm to prepare the necessary forms while the Moderator works on the appropriate changes to the Department’s By-laws.

Engine 4 Replacement Committee - The Engine 4 Committee made a presentation at the meeting which included potential timelines, the background and rationale, research, specifications, return on investment and cost to the district. The presentation demonstrated that the role of the Department has been evolving over time from primarily fire fighting to becoming more and more involved in emergency services. With that

evolution in mind the committee recommends replacing the current Engine 4 firefighting apparatus with a Rescue body style-enclosed ladder apparatus capable of handling fires but just as capable for rendering emergency services such as those encountered in severe motor vehicle accidents. The committee will be making this presentation to the tax payers at the annual meeting.

2013 – 2014 Budget – The Chief reviewed with the Committee a first pass budget totaling \$754,951. The Chief and Board of Engineers will continue to work on the budget and schedule a follow up meeting with the committee later in the month for further review and discussion.

Nominating Committee – The Nominating Committee has begun receiving petitions for candidates who wish to run for the two at large Operating Committee seats at the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee will be accepting petitions up to June 17th and then will post a list of those running on the District’s site.

Contracting Districts – The contracts to provide fire protection services for both Shady and Shelter Harbor will be expiring at the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year, The Operating Committee will begin addressing the potential renewals in the fall of 2013.

Other Business:

Signage – Treasurer Delaney has begun working on the project to erect a sign similar to that of the Westerly Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce’s to help promote the Fire District.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm
Respectfully Submitted,

Steve White
District Clerk