

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting May 27, 2014

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday May 27, 2014 at 6:00 PM, in Fire Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Matt Thomsen, Tom Algieri, Ken Martin, Chief Mike Frink, Bob Delaney, and Jon Schreier.

Additional attendees: District Clerk Steve White.

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 minutes of the May 19, 2014 meeting.*

Next Operating Committee Meeting - The next regular meeting of the Operating Committee is scheduled for June 9, 2014 at 6:00 PM at Station 1.

District Budget 2014-2015 – The Chief reviewed a draft operating budget currently of \$899,514. The major variances from the previous budget being changes to Deputy Chiefs' stipend process, and costs related to employing a full time firefighter.

As part of the budget process the Chief provided the Committee with survey data showing stipends and incentives paid to deputy chiefs in the surrounding districts.

The Moderator requested for the next meeting that the Chief provide the Committee with written justification for the Deputy Chief stipends and incentive changes and for a full time fire fighter.

Additionally, the matter of a \$2,000 payment to support the Bradford Fire District's dispatch fee was reviewed.

A motion was made and seconded to rescind a resolution to pay \$2000 for Bradford's dispatch fee approved at the April 14, 2014 Operating Committee meeting because the plan proposed by the Dunn's Corners Fire District for the overall redistribution of the expense was rejected by Dispatch services.

Discussion focused on the lack of support from Dispatch and their unwillingness to reallocate the lost revenue over the entire system, Additionally those in favor of the

motion stated that the Bradford Fire District is still an independent entity and responsible for the costs. Those who spoke in favor of the April 14, 2014 motion stated their belief that dispatch is part of fire protection services and should be taken into consideration as such.

The motion passed 4 to 2 with members Martin and Delaney voting in opposition.

The dissenters' opinion is as follows - Dispatch is part of Fire Protection service and should come out of the contract fee as BFD pays the same rate as those in the Westerly portion of our district. \$2000.00 is an ample amount for the level of fire related calls in BFD. BFD should not have to subsidize other districts.

There was further discussion of the conversion from a hard wired fire alarm control system to a radio alarm system which, would allow for the sale of the bucket truck which needs to be replaced in the near future and would reduce long term costs to the District through savings on wire and wiring.

A draft long-term capital plan detailing future expenses through 2022 was provided and reviewed.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to submit a resolution to the taxpayers at the Annual Meeting to sell Engine 2 at best market value and use the proceeds to purchase a brush truck for less than the sale price of Engine 2 with any additional proceeds being used to pay down district debt.

Chief's Annual Review Process – The Moderator discussed his thoughts on a structured review processes for the Chief which would be completed prior to the annual budget process.

Contracting Districts – The several committee members discussed in general terms their views that future contracts should not afford contracting district's more favorable terms than those provided to District taxpayers.

Bradford Fire District Contract – The Moderator provided a draft agreement from the District's solicitor for a two-year contract with options to move forward based on future negotiations. The contract is similar to the current short-term agreement that expires on May 31, 2014.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to continue to provide fire protection services to BFD until the new multi- year contract is approved by both sets of taxpayers.

The equipment lease is still an open item with there being concern about the Bradford Fire District being able to recover several key pieces of equipment from the remnants of the disbanded Bradford Fire Department.

Bradford Industrial Park – The Chief provided the Committee a copy of a letter by the Chief that indicated that the Bradford Industrial Park has filed a petition to join the Bradford Fire District.

Treasurer Delaney raised the questions if and how the past due bills owed DCFD by Bradford Industrial park will be paid. This matter will need to be resolved.

Additionally, the Committee stated that the Bradford Fire District (BFD) would be billed for false alarm calls generated by businesses within its District beyond three per business within a given cycle. The BFD would be responsible for recouping those fees from the offending businesses.

New Business

Chief's Professional Commitments – The Chief informed the Committee that he spends about 15 hours a month attending meetings for the RI Association of Fire Chiefs

BFD Hydrant Fee Abatement - The Committee referred the matter back to the Bradford Fire District Moderator for further action.

Save the Bay – A question was raised as to whether or not there was any further discussion with representatives of Save the Bay who requested attending an Operating Committee meeting to discuss mosquito abatement. There has been no action on the matter since the initial contact.

Public Comments – District taxpayer J. Angelo suggested that in order to address matters in more timely fashion the Committee consider using a semi-annual survey system as part of the Chief's review process.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve White

District Clerk