

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting November 18, 2014

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #2.

Attendees were comprised of the OC members Moderator Matt Thomsen, Tom Algieri, Chief Mike Frink, and Jon Schreier. Treasurer Bob Delaney and member Ken Martin were excused. A quorum was present.

Additional Attendees included - District Clerk Steve White

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

Agenda Items:

Previous meeting minutes – The Moderator was still working on the October minutes but stated the only business of note was the Committee's approval of the revised Shade Harbor Fire District contract.

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Bradford Industrial Park – The Committee discussed the stalemate with Westerly Dispatch regarding calls that come to the Dunn's Corners Fire Department for the Bradford Industrial Park (BIP) (primarily due to faulty alarm equipment). BIP is not part of any fire district. The Committee agreed to retain counsel and file an injunction to obtain relief.

Financial Statements – The Committee accepted the Financial Statements through October 2014.

Chief's Report – The Chief updated the committee on the following topics:

VFIS Insurance - The Chief informed the committee that the rate might go up by as much as 25-30% for disability and injury coverage. There has been no rate increase in six years and currently losses are running at a rate twice that of the premium collections rate for VFIS clients.

Fire Alarm - The Chief recommended we stay with 100ml wired system for the time being citing the cost of \$4,000 to \$6,000 at this time may be too big of a burden for some business owners. He also went on to discuss his approach for handling alarm systems in the Bradford Fire District

which included replacing our system in dispatch and Station 1 to receive 100ml and radio boxes at \$71,000 and requiring Bradford businesses install radio boxes. The Chief also discussed giving businesses in the Dunn's Corners Fire District 5 years to comply.

After discussions with the Chief regarding maintaining the existing 100 mil wired alarm system or continuing to move forward with a wireless system, the Committee instructed the Chief to keep working on moving the District to a wireless solution. The Committee was of the opinion that it was in the long term financial best interest of the District and its taxpayers as a whole to continue to move forward with plans to go to a wireless system.

Fulltime Firefighter/Facilities Manager – The Chief stated the position is going to be filled from within the department. Three candidates had applied; two had completed both written and oral exams and were very close in qualifications. The Chief plans to make an offer to the highest scoring candidate within a week.

The Chief took the Open Meetings and Access to Public Records training and the District is compliant. He recommended that all members of the Operating Committee do the same and will forward them the appropriate information to do so.

The Chief completed and passed the 40 hours Fire Officer I class.

The Department responded to 62 calls in October, which broke down as follows; 33 Medical and 29 Fire. Additionally during the month the Department Conducted 56 inspections of which 40 were for businesses and 16 were residential as well as completed 5 plan reviews.

Bookkeeper's Position – The Chief informed the Committee that the Bookkeeper's position has not been filled yet and he was looking at options. The current Bookkeeper D. Charadio's last month is scheduled for December.

Shady Harbor Fire District Contract – The new Shady Harbor Contract is currently with the District's attorney for finalization.

Shelter Harbor and Central Beach Fire Districts' Contracts – The Moderator reminded the Committee that both District's had been notified that the contracts will not auto renew and new contracts will need to be negotiated.

Sale of Engine 2 – The Chief informed the committee that no deal has been reached on the sale of Engine 2 and it appears that process has stalled.

SCBAs – The Treasurer sent a note requesting information on the status of the breathing apparatus and if there was a possibility of grants and/or working with other districts to creatively mitigate the costs. The Committee discussed the options. The Chief informed the Committee that he has been reserving sufficient funds in the restricted accounts to pay for replacements when the time comes in 2017 and 2018.

New Business:

Chief's Schedule – The Committee discussed the Chief's time commitments primarily as they pertain to his becoming the president of the RIAFC during the upcoming year and how it may effect the Department and the District.

Treasurer's Update - The Treasurer who was not able to attend requested that the Clerk provide the Committee with the following update; that the Annual Audit is anticipated to be completed in December, the reminder tax notices went out during November and that the tax sale is anticipated to take place in the spring. He anticipates having sufficient resources to make an additional \$55,000 payment on Station 2.

The Treasurer requested a meeting be scheduled for December to address plans for the next three years, review initial audit notes and the tax sale process schedule that will be followed. The Committee also should review the Chief's plans and commitments that will take him out of district during the normal work day for RIAFC meetings, planned seminars, etc. thru April 2015

Old Business – (No Old Business)

Public Comments – Jim Angelo provided some information on wireless fire alarm systems and suggested that the District and Southern League explore the use catastrophic stop loss coverage to help mitigate the large increase in insurance premium expense.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Steve White
District Clerk