

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting December 9, 2014

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendees included - District Clerk Steve White

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

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting started at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Previous meeting minutes – The Moderator was still working on the October minutes.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the November 18, 2014 Operating Committee meeting minutes.

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. It was noted that the Chief would be out of town from the 10th through 14th and would not be in attendance.

Financial Statements – The Treasurer reviewed the Financial Statements through November of 2014 with the committee and noted they currently did not reflect the principal and interest payments made on Station 2 and the Tower. Additionally, the Chief stated that the Inspection Fees line item was accurate.

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

Fire Fighter/Facilities Manager - The Chief introduced Chris Wells as the District's new Fire Fighter/Facilities manager to the committee. The Chief stated that the Job Description for the position has been posted to the District's website. The position comes with the stipulation that the candidate becomes certified as a fire marshal within one year of starting the job.

Mileage reimbursement – *A motion was made seconded and so voted that the District reimburse members for mileage at the IRS rate when their personal vehicles are used for District business.*

The Committee instructed the Chief to review practice of Deputy Chiefs using the Charlestown filling station on their duty weekends and report back to the Committee with alternatives.

Tower 5 out of service – Tower five has been placed out of service to resolve a mechanical issue. As of the meeting date there was no date as to when it would be placed back into service and that the other local departments will be made aware of the situation.

Replacement hose project – The Chief informed the Committee that all the required hose has been purchased and installed.

Taxpayer letter – A letter received by taxpayer Lou Misto was reviewed by the committee and placed into record.

Survey Request – A survey requesting information about the Fire District was received from former gubernatorial candidate Ken Block by the department. The Chief will provide whatever information is required under the State guidelines for open records.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to respond to all reasonable Dunn's Corners Fire Taxpayer requests for information to the best of the District's abilities even if it requires going beyond the State's minimum requirements.

Number of Calls – the department responded to 58 calls during the month of November.

Exterior Lighting – The Chief discussed meeting with Nation Grid about upgrading the buildings' exterior lighting with more energy efficient LED lights. Jon Schreier also noted that in his conversations with Grange Manager Deb MacManus that the Grange building exterior lighting should be upgraded.

A recommendation was made to place some motion detector LED lights near exterior doors on District buildings.

Five year plan – The Chief gave an overview of the Board of Engineers draft long-term plans and that he plans on posting the plan to the District's website.

Treasurer's Report

Tax Sale – The Treasurer informed the Committee that the tax sale for past due taxes will be held on April 22, 2015 and the process will be managed by Country Titles the firm which managed

the last tax sale. The Treasurer stated that after the sale there should be sufficient funds available to allow for an additional principal payment to be made on the loan for Station2 of \$55,000.

CPA Audit Draft – The Treasurer reviewed the draft of the 2013/2014 fiscal year audit noting that the district did well, the accruals were closely reviewed and that there were only a few technical matters that the District will need to address.

Tax Exempt Status – One item on the audit that has been outstanding for several years relates to the tax-exempt status of the Fire Department. The District has that status. The Moderator will work with the Department to ensure that the proper tax-exempt status is in place.

Chief's Schedule – The Committee discussed with the Chief his upcoming commitments and how that will effect his schedule and what is best mechanism for ensuring that the members of the department know when he will be available or out of the area. The Chief is going to be sworn in as president of the RIAFC on January 24th the ceremony to take place at the Haversham Tavern.

Contracting Fire Districts – The Committee is still waiting to receive from the District's counsel the final version of the modified Shady Harbor Fire protection contract for execution. It was noted that the District because of the delay has yet to bill Shady Harbor for the 2014/2015 fiscal year.

Bradford Industrial Park – The Moderator stated that the District's counsel recommends inviting dispatch along with local legislators to the next Operating Committee meeting to review the matter of the DCFD being toned out for calls to the BIP. The majority of the Committee still supports hiring an attorney and filing an injunction.

The Moderator will engage an attorney for and injunction against WAC regarding tone outs to BIP.

Charlestown Marsh Land – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to have a representative of the Committee approach and if possible negotiate the sale of the District owned marshland in Charlestown to the Charlestown Land Trust as open space.*

Public Comments – Jim Angelo noted that he had been researching radio boxes to resolve the Bradford Fire District alarm situation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38.

Steve White
District Clerk