

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting January 13, 2015

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendees included - District Clerk Steve White and from the CPA Firm of Hoyt, Filippetti and Malaghan LLC, Jason Cote, CPA.

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.

CPA Audit – Jason Cote reviewed with the Operating Committee the results of the 2013-2014 fiscal year audit. He stated the district received an “Unmodified Opinion”. He reviewed the Statement of Net Position and noted that it had improved by \$65,000. Additionally the Fund Accounts were reviewed.

Mr. Cote then reviewed the Management Letter and Other matters, which included Modified Accrual Basis (Fund Financials), Accrual Basis (Government Wide Financials); Expenditures from Capital Project Funds; Budgeted Revenue Inspection Fees; New Reporting Requirements for RI Fire Districts; Fire Fighter Incentive Program and Dunn's Corners Fire Department IRS Filing.

Mr. Cote noted that the his firm was just waiting on the District's Attorney to provide them with a letter stating that there was no litigation that could materially impact the District's financial position before formally releasing the audit. A copy of the final version of the audit will be posted to the District's website when it becomes available.

Bradford Industrial Park (BIP) – The Moderator stated that the District's had conversations with our local elected representatives about the matter of Bradford Industrial Park not being part of any Fire District and that DCFD has been saddled with the responsibility of being first on the response call list. Due to conflicts the local state representatives could not attend the meeting.

Chief Frink has been in contact with Chief Fendeisen of the Misquamicutt Fire District whose district relays alarm signals from BIP to Westerly Dispatch. Chief Fendeisen said he was in receipt of a letter from BIP's attorney that stated that the department, which responded last to BIP, was the department responsible to respond to the calls. He stated that for MFD to stop relaying the alarm signal from BIP he would need a hold harmless agreement.

The Moderator informed the Committee that the District will be meeting with a litigator to attempt to get DCFD removed from the first call list and to have BIP removed from MFD's relay box.

The Treasurer informed the committee that the outstanding invoice for services rendered to BIP has been placed with a collection agency.

Committee member J. Schreier inquired as to what gave the Westerly Ambulance Corp (WAC) the authority to tone out DCFD for BIP calls. The matter was the subject of debate with the Committee in agreement that only legal action will resolve the matter.

Additionally J. Schreier inquired why DCFD was responding to medical calls in the Bradford Fire District when the contract stated that DCFD would only be providing fire protection services. Committee member Algieri stated the calls were mutual aid responses.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted for the District to retain a litigator to resolve the BIP matter and that Committee members Thomsen, Delaney and Chief Frink lead the District in this effort.

Previous meeting minutes –

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the December 2014, 2014 Operating Committee meeting minutes with the following revisions; that the motion for the sale of the Charlestown wetland property show no designated use for the funds and that mileage would be reimbursed at the IRS level.

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Financial Statements – The Treasurer reviewed the Financial Statements through December of 2014 with the committee and noted that the Contracting District Fees needed to be reviewed in light of the changes to the Shady Harbor Fire District contract. Additionally there was a question to be resolved prior to the February meeting as to how the interest and principal payments on Engine 4 were posted.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer informed the Committee that when the tax sale is complete and the funds from the new Shady Harbor Fire District contract are received the District would have sufficient funds to

make an additional 55,000 principal payment on Station 2 as authorized by a resolution at the 2014 Annual Tax Payers' meeting.

Charlestown Marsh Land – The ad hoc Charlestown Marshland Committee will be making an offer to a local land trust to sell the property to the trust at a fair market rate.

DCFD and Grange Building Inspections – The Treasurer requested that the District have its buildings inspected so a long-term restoration and maintenance plan can be developed.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to have the District's buildings inspected to allow for the development of a long-term restoration and maintenance plan.

Chief's Report – Deputy Chief and Committee Member Tom Algieri in the absence of the Chief presented the report to the Committee:

Area Fire Chief's had a meeting with Ken Block and tried to educate him on the fire service as a whole and to clear up and misconceptions.

The Department has developed an expense reimbursement report, a draft of which was provided to the committee.

The Chief will be having National Grid do an energy audit on all district buildings. He is working with the MFD on taking BIP Radio Box offline. The District is working on the sale of the property it has on East Beach Rd. The District is selling or getting rid of the non-compliant hose that was taken out of service. Additionally, the District received a letter for the Bradford Fire District to sell or dispose of all their noncompliant hose.

The Department responded to 50 calls in December; 28 Medical, - 4 had no response and 22 Fire. Additionally, the Department Conducted 26 inspections & Plan reviews; 3 Business, 6 Plan reviews and 17 residential.

Public Comments – Taxpayer James Angelo informed the committee that correspondence to be read, submitted or discussed at an Operating Committee meeting should be placed on the agenda. Additionally, he believed there should also be a Status of Action Items section listed on the agenda. The Moderator stated that open action items are listed on the agenda just not classified as such.

Moderator Thomsen stated he would research the matter.

Executive Session – Committee Member Schreier requested the Committee go into executive Session to discuss matters related to District personnel.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Steve White
District Clerk