

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting June 9, 2015

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendees: 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 – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the May 12, 2015 Operating Committee meeting minutes.*

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Monday June 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Grange Building – Ron Meneo of East Beach Rd spoke on behalf of the Quonochontaug Grange Exploratory Study Group and provided the Operating Committee with an itemized list (attached) of what the group believes to be items in need of immediate repair and maintenance at the Grange facility. The group was requesting that the Operating Committee would allocate the \$14,700.00 in repair and maintenance expenses in the District's 2015-2016 fiscal budget. The group is requesting support for the facility for the upcoming fiscal year and stated that the group would hope to be in a position to potentially takeover the management of the Grange on July 1, 2016.

Additionally, the group discussed and looked for guidance in the best way to facilitate the work necessary to repair the Grange facility; the possibility of having a link on the Dunn's Corners Fire District website to the volunteer groups site; requested that the District get the word out that the facility has been reopened; and discussed the long term prospect of the group forming a 501c3 organization.

Committee member Algieri remarked that he supported the exploratory committee's work efforts and plans. He noted that the Operating Committee was working hard to keep the budget

increase to a minimum and that there were maintenance items at Station 1 that were in his opinion of higher priority.

The Moderator and Treasurer stated that they would review the requests with the rest of the Operating Committee as part of the budget process.

The committee expressed appreciation to the Grange group for the many hours put in for meetings, review sessions, and inspection time thus far in support of the Grange.

Financial Statements – The Committee reviewed the financial statements through May 2015. Treasurer Delaney stated that some work still needs to be done in regards to the posting of depreciation on the financial statements. The Committee agreed to bring in the District’s accounting software consultant to work with the new bookkeeper to resolve the matter.

The Chief noted that there were still some outstanding expense items that would need to be posted before the year end May 2015 financial statements could be closed.

Treasurer’s Report - The Treasurer reported that there is 12 years left on the Station 2 note and that the district should consider looking into the possibility of obtaining a more favorable rate by refinancing. The Treasurer also noted that tax sales are performed every other year and that there will be no tax sale in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Chief’s Report – The Chief reported on the following;

That the District received a \$4,500.00 grant from the State League to fund trench rescue training; that the department applied for a \$58,000 grant from RIEMA for a repeater site in Bradford and a communication link between the District’s VHF and 800 radios; that the Chief approached and received approval from the Westerly Town Council to place an antenna on the Bradford water tower to improve communications in Bradford and the 216/Buckeye Brook Road area; that he was getting close to formalizing the radio box upgrade plan; and that he was planning on bringing Rachael Schilke on board this summer as an intern.

The Chief also provided the Committee with the following Department activity data:

The Department responded to 82 calls during the month of May

- 42 Medical – 12 had no response
- 40 Fire

The Fire Marshalls Conducted 17 inspections & Plan reviews

- 5 Plan reviews
- 12 Residential inspections
- 0 Commercial inspections

Draft Budget 2015-2016 – The Chief presented a draft budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 of \$912,514.00 which is an increase of 1.8% over the previous year with many of the capital items requested funded by the \$183,000 in proceeds received from sale of Engine 2.

A meeting of the Operating Committee to primarily review the budget has been scheduled for Monday June 22, 2015 at Station 1 a 5:30 PM.

Grange Committee Resolution – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to recognize the Quonochontaug Grange Exploratory Study Group and to allow them to work with the District to maintain the Grange building as a public access community building; to provide a link from f the District’s website to the group’s site, and to post on the District’s site that the Grange building is open.*

Contracting Districts – Moderator Thomsen stated that he has been in contact with representatives of the Shelter Harbor Fire District and informed them that DCFD Operating Committee would be willing to offer their district a new contract under the same terms and conditions as the Shady Harbor Fire District Contract. Additionally. the Moderator informed the Committee that the Shady Harbor Fire District was looking for a five-year agreement.

Bradford Industrial Park (BIP) – The Moderator updated the Committee that he the Chief and the Treasurer have met with Attorney McKinney and have been providing documentation on charters, correspondence and emails.

Grange Manager - *A motion was made seconded and so voted to provide Grange Manager Debra MacManus with a \$50.00 gas card and \$100.00 Chamber gift certificate in appreciation for her efforts managing the facility.*

Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee – The Moderator suggested that the Committee appoint an Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee for 2015-2016 to review and if necessary recommend changes to the District Charter.

New Business - None

Correspondence – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Steve White District Clerk