

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting April 11, 2016

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendees: District Clerk-Steve White; Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange Chair Ron Meneo and Tom Doyle.

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.

Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange (FOTQG) – Ron Meneo representing FOTQG reported that the Ladies' room project at the Grange was near completion and that all other planned capital improvements agreed to are either done or near completion and on track with the budget.

R. Meneo inquired on the status of the draft lease. He noted that for the organization to be eligible for the capital improvement grants being applied for that the original draft lease would need to be modified to a 10 year agreement with an initial period of 5 years with a 5 year renewal option.

The Moderator apologized for not getting back to the FOTQG sooner in regards to the matter. There was discussion on the matter of continued funding of the Grange by the District and the amount of use fees collected by the FOTQG to help offset the District's expenses in keeping the facility available to the public. There was also discussion and when was it appropriate to get the Tax payers approval of the lease.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the draft lease agreement as proposed subject to taxpayer approval at the Annual meeting in July and to provide FOTQG with a letter stating that the Operating Committee has approved the draft lease subject to taxpayer approval.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting.*

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday May 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer informed the committee that the financial statements appear to be in good order and tracking well to budget; that there is approximately \$28,000 in uncollected tax receipts still pending and we are at a collection rate for the current year above 90%.

He noted that we have still not received any payment from the Shelter Harbor Fire District and 50% of the invoiced amount based on a new contract estimate has been received from the Shady Harbor Fire District.

The Treasurer informed the Committee that the periodic State reporting documents were ready to be signed and will be submitted in accordance with State law.

He also stated that the Chief, Board of Engineers and officers of the department were in the process of developing the budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Chief's Report – The Chief provided the Committee with the following update; the new phone system was installed and works well; the pond rescue boat is pretty much completed and should be in service by May 1st; he will be in contact with Dave Parr on the status of the AFG grant for the replacement of the SCBA equipment.

The Chief informed the Committee that the letters for new radio fire alarm box initiative have gone out to the effected local businesses and that a meeting will be held on April 26th to explain why this needs to be done and the process. He noted that he will be placing the order for the boxes during the month and was able to get the cost per box down to \$1200. Those sites requiring an external antenna will incur an additional \$600 in equipment costs.

The Chief stated that he was able to get approval to use the monies from the grant received for the radio repeater to outfit all of the District's engines with new mobile radios with digital capabilities saving the District approximately \$10,000 in future replacement costs.

The Rhode Island Fire Chief's Association is monitoring 17 house and 13 senate bills that may impact the district and both the house and senate have new bills to update the fire code.

There have been some protocol issues in regards to DCFD and Charlestown Dispatch which the Chief is trying to resolve.

The department responded to 52 calls in March, 26 medical, 26 fire; the fire marshals conducted 29 inspections and plan reviews for the month, 5 plan review(s), and 19 residential and 4 commercial inspection(s) and 1 consultation.

Finally, the Chief noted that on April 21st DCFD will be teaming up with the American Red Cross and the other Westerly area fire departments on a project to get fire detectors in every house.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Treasurer's and Chief's reports.

Contracting District Contracts – The Moderator informed the committee that the new contracts had been sent out to both the Shady Harbor and Shelter Harbor Fire Districts for signatures. Additionally, he noted that Shady Harbor was still looking for some modifications. The committee was not in favor to additional modifications to the agreement.

The Bradford Fire District contract which is equivalent to the Shady Harbor and Shelter Harbor Fire Districts' draft contracts is close to completion with the main item to be resolved being the sale or lease of the equipment previously owned by the Bradford Fire District to the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

Bradford Industrial Park – The Moderator reviewed the response by the Westerly Ambulance Corp's legal counsel in regards to the action filed by DCFD looking for relief from being the first department called to non-active fire events at the Bradford Industrial Park. The Bradford Industrial Park does not reside within the boundary lines of any area fire districts.

The committee requested the Chief and Moderator set up a meeting with the Westerly Ambulance Corp's officials and counsel as well as local representatives in an effort to resolve the matter before it goes to court.

Charter Review Committee – The Moderator was looking to have a meeting of the ad hoc Charter Review Committee prior to the District's Annual Meeting and has asked for a volunteer to chair the committee.

Chief's Contract Status – The matter was tabled and is pending additional information to be provided by the Chief.

Nominating Committee – The two at large members of the committee, Jonathan Schreier and Bob Delaney both declared that they intend to run for another term which will run from July 2016 through July 2018. The clerk was instructed to advise the Nominating Committee.

Other Business – The Treasurer noted that the valuation of property in Westerly went down since the last valuation and that it will have an effect on the mil rate. He noted more work will be done in determining the full impact over the budget season.

Public Comments – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Steve White District Clerk