

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Road

Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes

Operating Committee Meeting

June 13, 2017

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Tom Algieri, Rich Thomsen, Bob Delaney, interim Chief Keith Kenyon, Ken Martin and Matt Thomsen. Steve White was excused. A quorum was present.

Actions of OC (all votes unanimous unless otherwise noted).

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting started as 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Previous Meeting Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the May 9, 2017 meeting minutes.

A motion was made, seconded to approve the May 15, 2017 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to modify the resolution made in the Executive Session, in that it was not a resolution but only a consensus. The motion carried with Tom Algieri abstaining. The said May 15, 2017 minutes, as amended, were approved.

Friends of the Quonchontaug Grange (FOTQG) – Ron Meneo spoke on behalf of the FOTQG, providing an oral and written report. Said report is attached hereto.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported that the financial reports looked good for the 2016-17 year and that we may be able to make transfers into our restricted accounts. A motion was made, seconded and was so voted to approve the Treasurer's report.

2017-18 Fiscal Year Draft Budget – Discussion ensued regarding the proposed budget. Members requested that the format of the budget be such that any increase or decrease from the prior year would be highlighted. The question of the new radios, which are needed because they are dated, was discussed. The OC decided to ask the Chief to provide more information for the next meeting.

Resolutions for the 2017 Annual Meeting – The OC agreed that the resolutions look good as of today. They will be reviewed again once the budget is agreed to and the tax can be calculated.

Chief's Report – The Chief reported the number of calls made by the Department. The Chief also discussed the needs regarding new radios and the SCBAs. After much discussion, a motion was made, seconded and so voted to purchase the said radios and SCBAs.

Progress on Hiring Full Time Firefighter – The Chief reported that five applications had been received and discussion were taking place by the Board of Engineers.

Reporting of Volunteer's Stipends – Discussion about the W-2 and 1099 issue was discussed, including the Attorney's opinion letter. That letter stated that payments made to volunteers as part of the incentive program are NOT subject to Rhode Island labor laws. It was agreed to use the W-2s to report the stipends paid to volunteers. Further, it was agreed to hold the signor of any incentive check payments harmless from any liability.

It was suggested that the Southern League be asked to represent its members with the legislature to assure that the use of W-2s will not be evidence of employment or any labor laws. Members of the OC agreed to approach the Southern League on that issue, Fred Stanley in particular.

A motion was made, seconded and it was voted to provide Chief Fred Stanley with a copy of the attorney's opinion letter.

Discussion ensued regarding the related payments required of the DCFD when a W-2 is used.

A motion was made, seconded and it was voted to use W-2s to report the stipends paid to volunteers and that DCFD would pay what an employer would normally pay. Further that the budget for stipends would increased by 10% to cover these costs. Finally, to hold the signor of any incentive check harmless from any penalties, fees, attorneys fees or any other penalty or fine related thereto.

Charter Change Recommendations – The correspondence from M. Frink regarding the proposed charter changes were discussed.

Executive Session – The meeting adjourned to review the matter pertaining to the Bradford Industrial Park litigation and vendor contract quote dispute.

Meeting adjourned.

Matthew H. Thomsen, District Clerk pro tem