

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting July 11, 2017

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 6:00p.m. at Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of the OC members Bob Delaney, Ken Martin, Rich Thomsen, Matt Thomsen and interim Chief Keith Kenyon. J. Thomas was excused. A quorum was present.

Additional Attendee(s): District Clerk Steve White.

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

Agenda Items:

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

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the June 19, 2017 meeting minutes as presented and to table the June 13, 2017 meeting minutes until the next Operating Committee meeting.*

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting is scheduled to take place at Station #1 on Wednesday July 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange (FOTQG) – Ron Meneo on behalf of the FOTQG provided a verbal and written report to the Committee.

The report noted the following:

Grange revenues for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2017 totaled \$6,645.10.

The “70 Anniversary Celebration” at the Grange was held on July 8th with approximately 120 people in attendance. During the event, filming of scenes for “Quonnie the Movie” took place. The Quonnie community expressed its gratitude for the ongoing support of the DCFD with the FOTQG’s efforts to restore the Grange as a vibrant gathering place for the community.

The construction of the of the Quonnie Historical Society’s Archive and Research Center is about 80% complete with the unveiling event likely to take place in August.

The proposed expansion of the West Side Parking Area has been broken down into three phases. Phase 1 will be the clearing of brush, phase 2 excavation and site work, and phase 3 final top

coat. Three bids will be obtained with a timetable for completion of phase 3 sometime between July 1 and December 1, 2018.

The Committee granted approval for the group to proceed with phase 1 and obtain bids for phase 2.

The FOTQG through the generosity of a benefactor was able to purchase nine new folding tables for the Grange. The group was looking for guidance as to the disposition of the old wooden folding tables.

The Committee suggested offering them to the members of the department on a “make me an offer basis” prior to disposal.

2017-2018 Draft Budget – The committee reviewed final changes to the 2017-2018 draft budget. The draft budget of \$1,046,610 is an increase of \$87,076 or 9.1% over the previous year. The Committee recognizing that this was a transition year to a new Chief and Firefighter/Fire Marshal department structure and that some capital purchases primarily for personal protective equipment and radio equipment have been accelerated, agreed to put forth to the taxpayers a resolution to use \$39,100 from excess general funds to hold the increase in the budget to the taxpayers to 5.00%

Annual Meeting Agenda – The draft Annual Meeting Agenda was approved with the only change being that the solicitor will provide an update as to the Bradford Industrial Park matter as part of the Moderator’s report.

Chief’s Report – Chief Kenyon reported that all the equipment and apparatus was up and running, there have been no major items or events, and that the fire marshal work is being performed to schedule.

Firefighter/Fire Marshal position – The Chief informed the committee that interviews for the position should be performed sometime over the next few weeks.

Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer noted that the yearend financial statements are in pretty good shape and that he was just verifying the fund balances prior to their being published.

Other Business – The Moderator informed the Committee that he met with Roy Jacobsen, who was one of the representatives of Quonnie Central Beach, as well as reps from East Beach Quonnie and Shady Harbor. Also, Virginia Lee attended the meeting on behalf of the Charlestown Town Council.

They informed him the State of Rhode Island has set aside money to purchase land for purposes of being an aquifer. There are four properties north of Route 1 that may meet this designation and help our taxpayers, as well as Central Beach and Shady Harbor taxpayers, in the future. This money has to be used before the end of this calendar year.

These areas will need this access to potable water. Unfortunately, they are not properly associated to make an application for these moneys. So, they are asking the DCFD to do so on their behalf.

After a discussion, the Committee did not believe that the District's Charter would allow for the District to get into such activities and instructed the Moderator to relay that message to the group.

Resolutions – The committee recommended the following resolutions:

Upgrades to Security and Information Systems for Stations 1 & 2 - Resolved to use up to \$10,000 from the unrestricted General fund to add additional cameras to improve security and new cat 6 cables to upgrade information system processing at both Stations 1 & 2. This was a carryover item which was approved in the previous year's budget but was not completed.

Hot Water System Station 2- Resolved to use up to \$6,000 from the unrestricted General Fund to purchase and install a new hot water system at Station 2. This was a carryover item which was approved in the previous year's budget but was not completed.

Personal Protective Equipment – Resolved to use up to \$10,000 from the unrestricted General Fund to purchase Personnel Protective Equipment for new members and to replace outdated equipment.

Radio Equipment – Resolved to use up to \$40,000 from the unrestricted General Fund to replace and upgrade outdated radio equipment.

General Fund Transfer to Budget – Resolved to use up to \$39,100 in unrestricted excess General Funds to hold the increase to the taxpayer in the 2017-2018 budget to 5% over the 2016-2017 budget.

Pay down on Station 2 Loan - Resolved to leave it to the OC's discretion to pay down up to \$10,000 on the principal owed on the Station 2 loan from the General Fund.

Authority To Access Restricted Funds for Unanticipated Repairs - Resolved that the Operating Committee be given the authority to access the Restricted Truck Fund for up to \$10,000.00 to mitigate unanticipated truck repairs and the Restricted Equipment Fund for up to \$5,000.00 to mitigate unanticipated equipment repairs that may occur between Annual Meetings.

Ratification and Approval of Acts of Officers - Resolved that each and all of the resolutions, acts and proceedings of the District Officers, as shown by the records of the respective officers in carrying out and promoting the purposes, objects and interests of the Dunn's Corners Fire District, be and the same approved, ratified and hereby made the acts and deeds of the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

Authorization of Representation - Resolved that the Moderator, or such person or persons as the Operating Committee or the Moderator shall designate, be and hereby are fully authorized

and empowered to enter objections or legal actions on behalf of the Dunn's Corners Fire District in reference to any zoning matters, liquor licenses, legislative matters, or any other subject affecting the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

Tax Resolution – Resolved that the taxable inhabitants of said District qualified to vote on any proposition to impose tax, in District meeting legally assembled on the 19th day of July, A.D., 2017, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on the taxable inhabitants and property in the sum of not less than \$724,181 nor more than \$738,665 credited to. Said tax is for ordinary expenses of interest and charges, for the payment of interest and indebtedness in whole or in part of said District and for other purposes authorized by law. The Board of Assessors shall assess and apportion said tax on the inhabitants and ratable property of said District of the 31st day of December, 2016, at 12:00 o'clock Noon, according to law, and shall, on completion of said assessment, date, certify, and sign the same and deliver to and deposit the same in the office of the District Clerk on or before the 15th day of August, A.D. 2017. The District Clerk, on receipt of said assessment, shall forthwith make a copy of the same and deliver it to the District Treasurer, who shall forthwith issue and affix to said copy a warrant under his/her hand, directed to the Collector of Taxes of said District commanding him/her to proceed and collect said tax on the persons and estates liable therefore. Said tax shall be due and payable on and between the first day of September next and the 30th day of September, 2017, and all taxes remaining unpaid on said 30th day of September, A.D. 2016, shall carry, until collected, a penalty at the rate of twelve per centum (12%) per annum upon such unpaid tax. A \$2.00 handling fee will be imposed on reissued tax bills sent for collection purposes. No tax bill sent out shall be less than five and 00/100 (5.00) dollars.

Special Appropriation - Resolved that the Treasurer be directed to deposit in the Unrestricted General Fund Surplus the total of the unexpended appropriations as shown by the records of the Treasurer for the fiscal year 2016-2017, and all other monies collected during said fiscal year, but not otherwise appropriated. Provided, however, that prior to January 1, 2018, the Treasurer is authorized to use such portion of said sum of unexpended appropriations and other monies not otherwise appropriated as he or she deems necessary in anticipation of receipt of taxes assessed December 31, 2016.

Tax Anticipation Note - Resolved that the District Treasurer be and hereby is authorized and empowered during the current fiscal year of the District, commencing June 1, 2017, and ending May 31, 2018, to borrow such sum or sums of money as shall be necessary for the payment of the current liabilities and expenses of the District, but not to exceed in the whole the sum of Fifty thousand AND NO/100 (\$50,000) DOLLARS and to issue negotiable promissory note or notes of the District therefore, which shall be made payable not later than one (1) year from the respective date or dates thereof. Negotiable notes issued pursuant to the authority hereof shall be signed by the District Treasurer and countersigned by the District Clerk, and such countersignatures shall be conclusive evidence to all holders of such note or notes of the approval and consent of the District and the District Officers to the loan or loans evidenced thereby. All terms and conditions of said note or notes and the method of sale thereof not fixed herein or by the provisions of law or the charter of the District may be fixed by the District Treasurer. The District Treasurer is hereby authorized and empowered to renew any of said

notes from time to time, but any such renewal note shall be due not later than one (1) year of the original note so renewed.

Correspondence – None

Public Comments:- None

Executive Session – The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm to to review matter pertaining toe Bradford Industrial Park litigation.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:55pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Steve White - District Clerk