

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Road

Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes

Operating Committee Meeting

April 10, 2018

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Rich Thomsen, Bob Delaney, Chief Chris DeGrave, Jeff Thomas, and Ken Martin. Committee member Matt Thomsen was excused. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Ron Meneo representing FOTQG, and Steve White District Clerk.

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

In the absence of the Moderator, Committee Member R. Delaney moderated the meeting.

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting started as 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence – A moment of silence was held in remembrance of past members of the Department.

Previous Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the January 9, 2018 and January 23, 2018 meetings were tabled.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2018 meeting.

Friends of the Quonchontaug Grange (FOTQG) – Ron Meneo spoke on behalf of the FOTQG, providing an oral report and written outline on the following:

Grange revenues through March 31, 2018 totaled \$7,570.13 and utility reimbursements have been received totaling \$683.18.

Dig Safe has reviewed and “green lighted” the work on the West-Side Parking Area. Work is expected to commence the month of April.

New carpet has been approved by the Fire Marshal and is scheduled to be installed.

The movie night program will continue the 2nd Friday of each month with July and August being reserved for “Family Movie Nights”.

Kitchen upgrade plans continue to progress with a grant application being submitted to the Champlain Foundation during the month of April.

A “Communication and Access Protocol” for the use of the Grange was reviewed and agreed to by all parties.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Communication and Access Protocol.

Committee member J. Thomas inquired on the length of the lease for the Grange facility. The lease runs to 2021 with a 5-year renewal option.

The Operating Committee at the invitation of the FOTQG agreed to hold its August meeting at the Grange facility.

Treasurer’s Report – B. Delaney noted that revenues and expenses are tracking well to budget and the collection rate is running at 97%. The Treasurer noted that 2019 will be a tax sale year and the collection rate should increase 103%.

The Treasurer noted that the Bradford Fire District Contract allows for merger discussions to start by December of 2018. He stated that an insurance “ISO” review should be done to insure if a merger takes place that the insurance ratings do not change for existing DCFD tax payers.

Tax payer J. Angelo inquired if a merger discussion meeting was going to be public. The committee responded that it would.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Treasurer’s report.

WAC Dispatch Contract – The Chief provided the committee with an update on the discussions with WAC regarding the dispatch contract. The points of contention revolve around the fee structure which evenly divides the cost among the participating fire districts and the effects of the lost revenue to WAC post the Bradford Fire Districting (BFD) contracting with DCFD for fire protection services.

WAC’s position is that DCFD should be responsible for the BFD dispatch fee. DCFD’s position that the low call volume to Bradford does not warrant the full Bradford assessment being invoiced to DCFD and that may be a call-based fee structure should be explored. It was noted by WAC that DCFD was the only district unhappy with the current structure.

It was also noted that WAC has added another fire district which has offset the loss of BFD and that a new negotiated price to provide dispatch services to DCFD of \$11,260 was presented.

The committee discussed the possibility of applying for additional “911” funds to support WAC in the future as well as applying for legislative grants.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to move forward with the \$11,260 dispatch contract for 2018 without any agreement relative to the assumption of fees for contracted or merged districts.

Chief's Report – The Chief thanked those who attended his pinning ceremony and provided the committee a comprehensive written report (attached) that covered the following:

1. Department operations
 - a. Incidents responded to 61
 - b. SOP/SOG revisions
 - c. Leadership reporting and revised organizational chart
 - d. Deputy Chief role to be filled by July 1st
2. Current and Ongoing Projects
 - a. ProLock has repaired Station 2 lock system
 - b. Motorola radio system ordered
 - c. Firefighter PPE order placed
 - d. Station 2 water heater need to be replaced, estimated cost less than \$2,000.
 - e. Station 2 - 2 new refrigerators have been installed.
 - f. Pipe freezing/ Boiler Room freezing is being addressed by Buckley Heating.
 - g. Fire Cable removal project plans being developed.
 - h. New firefighter accountability and ID system with design and training to be scheduled within a few weeks.
 - i. Ladder truck out of service for a few weeks for repairs.
 - j. Quotes received to repair Station 1's speaker system. Repairs to be completed by mid-May.
 - k. Long-term disability options are being evaluated.
 - l. Westerly Dispatch meeting held with a net increase of \$1500.
 - m. Welcome letters have been sent to the neighboring/contracting fire districts.
3. Upcoming Department Projects
 - a. Water Heater/Filter System replacement Station 2
 - b. Station Cleaning is out to bid.
 - c. Annual pump service testing to be conducted within the next few weeks.
4. Training
 - a. Over 92 hours of training took place over the past month with 3 members being cleared on additional trucks.
 - b. Department will host on 4/11 a first ever multi-agency first responder training.
 - c. Multi department training and trench rescue certification will be conducted.
 - d. Special thanks to Lt. Thomas for his efforts coordinating training activities.
5. Budget – Being developed and fine-tuned with officers.
6. Fire Marshal/Fire Prevention
 - a. Plan reviews conducted 5
 - b. Commercial inspections 2
 - c. Residential inspections 13

A motion was made seconded and so voted to accept the Chief's report.

Moderator's Report – Tabled

Bradford Industrial Park Litigation – Member Delaney reemphasized the importance of informing the related parties as to the proximity of the fire stations around the Bradford Industrial Park.

2018-2019 Budget – Treasurer Delaney noted that process is moving along, and the numbers are getting there. The Chief noted that the budget is being designed to incent participation not to pay for firefighting. Additionally, the Chief noted there will be more emphasis on supporting administrative duties.

Other Business – None

Public Comments – Taxpayer J. Angelo requested clarification as to whether there would be an August operating Committee meeting this year. The Operating Committee will be meeting in August at the Grange this year.

Taxpayer J. Angelo voiced his concerns about residents at the mobile home park getting a “free ride” when it comes to paying property and fire taxes.

Executive Session:

The public meeting adjourned at 8:25p to go into executive session to act on matters pertaining to the wages, benefits and terms of employment of the Fire Fighter/Fire Marshal.

The public meeting reconvened at 8:40p.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

S. White

Steve White, District Clerk