

# **Dunn's Corners Fire District**

1 Langworthy Road  
Westerly, RI 02891

## **Minutes**

### **Special District Tax Payers Meeting September 24, 2008**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm, Moderator John Merkel presiding.

Meeting was advertised in the Westerly Sun on Tuesday, September 16, 2008. Notice was posted at the Westerly Community Credit Union's Dunn's Corners Office; Dunn's Corners Market, Dunn's Corners Fire Station #1 on Langworthy Road, Dunn's Corners Mobile, Michael's Shell and Dunn's Corners Fire Station #2 on Post Road, Charlestown. The notice was posted on the district's website and the Rhode Island Secretary of State's eTown Crier site on September 10, 2008.

Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was conducted.

There was a moment of silence observed for those who have passed on from families of members of the Dunn's Corners Fire Department.

The meeting Call was read by District Clerk Steve White. Fifty persons signed the attendance roster. A quorum was present.

2. The moderator had a letter from Finn Caspersen read into the minutes. (see attached)
3. Moderator John Merkel presented to the attendees an overview of the background of the Weekapaug situation leading up to Weekapaug Fire District's withdrawal from the Dunns Corner's Fire District for fire protection services and contracting with the Misquamicut Fire District to provide those services effective October 1, 2008. The overview included the history of the relationship, the negotiations that had taken place, how fees for fire protection services are currently assessed, the results of the TriData consulting report as to the quality of the Dunns Corners Fire District's fire protection services, and the fee schedule proposed by the Weekapaug Fire District. Moderator Merkel explained that in the end that the Weekapaug Fire District was happy with the service and their decision to move was based solely on monetary considerations.

Moderator Merkel informed the attendees that as part of the district's mutual aid agreements that the Dunns Corner's Fire District will respond to fires in Weekapaug if a request for assistance is received from the Misquamicut Fire Department. He also informed the group that the Dunns Corners Fire District would bill an appropriate amount

to the Weekapaug Fire District for all mutual aid calls responded to on their behalf.

The moderator then informed the attendees the remaining Coverage Fire Districts, Central Beach, Shady Harbor, and Shelter Harbor were looking to negotiate contracts that would protect them from paying in their estimation a disproportionately high percentage of the district's annual budget. Moderator Merkel stated the remaining districts had no immediate plans for withdrawal and that negotiations were continuing.

General discussion followed which included disappointment with the Misquamicut Fire District for agreeing to provide fire protection service to Weekapaug, insurance rates, did the Weekapaug voters know of the change, the legality of billing for mutual aide, and will there be any legislative involvement.

4. Budget implications:

Moderator John Merkel discussed with the attendees the Operating Committee's recommendations to close the \$99,000 budget shortfall created by the Weekapaug Fire District's withdrawal.

Budget Item	Cut	From	To	Comments
Grange Septic System upgrade	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$10,000	Proceed only with the design phase
Maintenance, Radios/Alarm Systems	\$5,000	\$15,700	\$10,700	Alarm wire to Weekapaug Inn no longer necessary
Maintenance of Engines and Pumps	\$5,000	\$36,665	\$31,665	Perform work internally
Personal Protective Equipment	\$2,540	\$14,040	\$11,500	Two sets of turn out gear returned by resigned members
Grange Repairs	\$4,500	\$8,500	\$4,000	Postpone nonessential repairs
Audit Services	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$4,000	Reduce scope of audit
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$115,040</b>			

A motion was made seconded and after discussion so voted by unanimous acclamation to approve the Operating Committees recommended budget adjustments.

5. Resolutions:

Resolution: Whereas the Dunns Corners Fire District at its annual meeting on July 16, 2008 adopted a resolution transferring \$100,000 and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) dollars from the unrestricted general fund surplus into the building and grounds restricted fund for the purpose of installation of a new septic system at the Grange property.

NOW THEREFORE the district voter hereby desire to amend said resolution as follows:

Be it RESOLVED that the sum of ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000) dollars be transferred from the unrestricted general fund surplus formerly known as the contingency fund to the building and grounds restricted fund for the purpose of the design of a new septic system at the grange property and the sum of ninety thousand and 00/100 (\$90,000.00) dollars to be transferred from said unrestricted general fund surplus to the general fund for the purpose of offsetting the loss revenue from the withdrawal by the Weekapaug Fire District from the area covered by the Dunns Corners Fire District for fire protection.

A motion was made seconded and so voted by acclamation to approve the resolution.

6. Coverage Fire District Negotiations

Moderator Merkel provided handouts to the attendees illustrating some of the proposed fee structures currently being discussed with the remaining Coverage Fire Districts and discussed the current status of the negotiations.

A motion was made seconded and after a discussion period so voted by acclamation to authorize the Operating Committee to continue to negotiate in good faith contracts for fire protection services with the remaining Coverage Fire Districts and to present such contracts to the district's voters for review and final approval at a future special meeting.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made seconded and so voted by acclamation to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Dunn's Corners Fire District at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve White  
District Clerk Dunn's Corners Fire District