

Dunn's Corners Fire District
1 Langworthy Road
Westerly, RI 02891
January 27, 2010
Minutes
Special District Tax Payer's Meeting

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00p.m. with Moderator Steve White presiding.

Meeting was advertised in the Westerly Sun on January 19, 2010. Notice was posted at the Westerly Community Credit Union's Dunn's Corners office, Dunn's Corner's Fire Station #1 on Langworthy Road, Dunn's Corners Market, Dunn's Corners Fire Station #2 on Post Road, Charlestown, and at Michael's Shell and Convenience Store on Post Road, Charlestown. The notice was posted on the Rhode Island Secretary of State's eTown Crier site and on the District's web site.

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.

Moderator White gave special recognition to former Moderator John Merkel for his hard work and dedication. Mr. Merkel received a round of applause.

District Clerk Bob Delaney read the meeting Call. Thirty-two persons signed the attendance roster. A quorum was present.

2. Moderator White provided a Power Point presentation covering the negotiations with the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District along with the pros and cons of the proposed 7 yr. financial contractual agreement. He asked that each attendee review the copy of the contract that was provided. He was assisted by Tax Collector Swain who explained the differing mill rates between those taxpayers with property in Westerly vs. the Charlestown portion of the District. (Different valuation times)
3. Moderator White called for a motion to approve the following resolution: Resolved: It is hereby resolved that the Dunn's Corners Fire District approves a 7 year contract with the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District in agreement with the terms and conditions contained in the form presented at the January 27, 2010 DCFD Special Meeting, with such minor changes as the Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee may approve.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution.

Discussion: Moderator White stated that the district is forced to compete to provide services to the individual districts because that is what the law allows. He conveyed that both sides worked very hard to get the best deal possible for those whom they represented. The Operating Committee felt that while this wasn't a great contract it was a good contract that would allow for some long term planning and separate the negotiation period from that of the two smaller districts Shady and Shelter. There was general

discussion both pro and con.

There was also discussion of the lost revenue from the departure of the Weekapaug Fire District. At the conclusion of the discussion period Moderator White requested a vote by a show of hands: The resolution was approved with a vast majority in favor while five taxpayers voted to reject the contract.

4. Taxpayers questioned how the funds would be used. Atty. Naccarato advised that no vote of the taxpayers could be taken at the meeting because it wasn't advertised. Tax Collector Swain advised that the \$65K had to be taken into revenue and could not be returned to tax payers or expended in the current year for any purpose. The collector believed that if rebated the average taxpayer would receive about \$14.00. Members of the Operating Committee commented that there had been some e-mails sent to the District that indicated that consideration was being given to using the money to purchase equipment, but that wasn't one of the options considered. The two options most popular are to pay down debt or to return the money to the district taxpayers. The majority of taxpayers would like the funds rebated in some manner.
5. Volunteer members of the District who provide countless hours of volunteer time that helps to keep the District's mill rate one of the lowest in the state were thanked with a round of applause.
6. Moderator White thanked all who attended and requested that if there were no further matters for discussion a motion for adjournment be made.
7. A motion was made seconded and so voted by acclamation to adjourn the Special meeting of the Dunn's Corners Fire District at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Delaney
District Clerk Dunn's Corners Fire District