

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Road
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Annual Meeting July 15, 2009

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, Moderator John Merkel presiding.

Meeting was advertised in the Westerly Sun on Wednesday, July 8, 2009. 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 e-Town Crier site on July 3, 2009.

Chief Frink reviewed the fire safety protocols for the meeting's attendees.

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. Twenty-two persons signed the attendance roster. A quorum was present.

2. Copies of the minutes of the 2008 annual meeting were printed and available for those in attendance. A motion was made seconded and so voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

3. Reports

Moderator John Merkel distributed the Annual Report for tax year 2008 – 2009, Tax Collector's Report, Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Restricted Funds Report, Chief's Report, 2009-2010 Budget, and Schedule of Fees. The financial reports showed revenues received of \$587,077, expenses of \$615,686, and a cash balance of \$470,112.

Chief's Report

Chief Frink reviewed the fire department's activities for the year which showed 299 calls, 226 plan reviews and inspections, 144 training classes and 2339 training hours. The Chief

went on to thank the officers and firefighters under his command during the year for all their hard work and efforts.

Moderator's Report

Moderator John Merkel reviewed the District's financials contrasting the 2008-2009 budget to the proposed budget highlighting significant expense reductions in multiple areas totaling \$72,955 and the major expense increases totaling \$110,667. The moderator went on to explain the proposed budget represents an increase of 3.4% over the original 7/16/2008 approved budget and 7.5% over the revised budget of 9/25/2008.

The Moderator reviewed with the taxpayers the process used in the selection of an auditing firm to review the District's financial records for the next three years.

Moderator Merkel went on to review the ever evolving long term financial plan. The plan takes into account the changes occurring in the district which includes the effect of the loss of the Weekapaug Fire District on the long term resources.

There was a review of the status of contract negotiations with the Coverage Fire Districts (CFDs). As of the meeting date there were agreements with both the Shady Harbor and Shelter Harbor Fire Districts pending approval of their voters, which is expected later in the summer. However negotiations with QCB have stalled with no prospects of an agreement in the near future. Because of these uncertainties QCB revenue was not included in the 2009-2010 budget with any potential monies received from QCB to be allocated to the General Fund.

The moderator also reviewed the status of grants totaling \$569,900 which have been applied for and if approved discussed how the District would have to provide \$54, 495 in matching funds.

4. Financial Plan and Operating Budget

A motion was made seconded and after lengthy discussion focusing on the long term effects of the Coverage Fire Districts on the Dunn's Corners Fire District's operations was so voted to approve the 2009-2010 budget as proposed.

A motion was made seconded and so voted that the Dunn's Corners Fire District calculate the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District fire protection fee for 2009-10 via the historical method, i.e., by applying the DCFD mill rate to QCB property assessments, to invoice the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District for that amount and to hold revenues collected from the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District in the Unrestricted General Fund Surplus for future use.

Resolutions

AUDITING CONTRACT – Resolved that the Operating Committee for the district is authorized to enter into a three (3) year contract with the auditing firm, Gothie, Hoyt & Filippetti, LLC for professional services and the sum for said service not to exceed twelve thousand and 00/100 (\$12,000.00) dollars per year.

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

TRUCK RESOLUTION - Resolved to appropriate the sum of fifty thousand and 00/100 (\$50,000.00) dollars from the Truck Restricted Fund for the purchase of a replacement for Car 1.

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

TURN OUT GEAR – Resolved to appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand and No/100 (\$10,000.00) Dollars from the Equipment Fund to be used to test and/or purchase replacement Turnout Gear.

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

SCBA TESTING AND REPLACEMENT - To appropriate the sum of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars from the Equipment Fund to be used to test and/or replace Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

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

GRANTS – Resolved that the Fire District has applied for certain grants from AFG and FEMA totaling Five hundred sixty nine thousand nine hundred and 00/100 (\$569,900.00) Dollars. The Dunn’s Corners Fire District shall be responsible for approximately Five (5%) percent up to Fifteen (15%) percent of the total grants, said amount not to exceed Fifty eight thousand four hundred ninety five and 00/100 (\$58,495.00) Dollars. If said grants are approved and accepted by the District, said sum shall be paid from the appropriate restricted fund.

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Resolved that the sum of twenty-seven thousand and 00/100 (\$27,000.00) dollars be transferred from the Unrestricted General Fund Surplus formerly known as the Contingency Fund into the Building and Grounds Restricted Fund.

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

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 16th

day of July, A.D., 2009, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on the taxable inhabitants and property in the sum of not less than \$609,310 nor more than \$628,840. 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, 2009, 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. 2009. 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 hand, directed to the Collector of Taxes of said District commanding him 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, 2009, and all taxes remaining unpaid on said 30th day of September, A.D. 2009, shall carry, until collected, a penalty at the rate of twelve per centum (12%) per annum upon such unpaid tax. No tax bill sent out shall be less than five and 00/100 (\$5.00) dollars.

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

SPECIAL APPROPRIATION – Resolved that the Treasurer be directed to deposit in the Unrestricted General Fund Surplus formerly known as the Contingency Fund the total of the unexpended appropriations as shown by the records of the Treasurer for the fiscal year 2008-2009, and all other monies collected during said fiscal year, but not otherwise appropriated.

Provided, however, that prior to January 1, 2010, 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, 2008.

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

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, 2009, and ending May 31, 2010, 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.

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

5. Election of Officers

Karl Kenyon presented the Nominating Committee report which proposed the following slate of candidates:

- John Merkel - term to expire 2011
- Dan Schilke – term to expire 2011
- Jonathan Schreier – term to expire 2010
- Steve White – term to expire 2010

A motion was made seconded and so voted to have the clerk cast one ballot to elect the proposed slate as members at large of the Operating Committee.

6. New Business

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the 2009-2010 Nomination Committee of Karl Kenyon, Elaine Martin and Ed Schilke.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made seconded and so voted by acclamation to adjourn the Annual Meeting of the Dunn's Corners Fire District at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve White
District Clerk Dunn's Corners Fire District