

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Road
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting October 18, 2010

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Monday October 18, 2010, at 7:00 PM, in Fire Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Jonathan Schreier, Bob Delaney, Dan Schilke, Ken Martin, Chief Mike Frink and Matt Thomsen. A quorum was present. District Clerk Steve White and Tax Assessor Ken Swain were in attendance.

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

1. Delinquent Account Collection Review – Tax Assessor Ken Swain discussed the collection procedures for past due accounts which include the sending of a second notice with an interest penalty at 60 days past due. He also informed the OC that accounts move into an active collection status at the 6 month past due mark. The committee discussed the pros and cons of tax sales and the idea of posting delinquent account “addresses only” in the local paper’s legal section. The committee approved adding to the fee schedule at the next annual meeting a returned item fee to offset the district’s costs for processing these items.
2. The Shelter Harbor Golf Club (TSHGC) – The committee received and entered into the minutes correspondence from Adler Pollock & Sheehan the law firm representing TSHGC seeking reimbursement of the taxes paid in excess of the reduced assessed property value reached in a settlement between TSHGC and the Town of Westerly. The committee agreed to pay a refund based on information provided by the district’s tax assessor for the tax years 2004 through 2010 of \$370.83, which includes rebates for the tax years 2004 – 2009 of \$4,149.18 less the unpaid taxes based on the new valuation for 2010 of \$3,778.35.
3. Charter Discussion – The committee discussed the origins of the language used in the District’s Charter in regards to the use of town property valuations for calculating the District’s tax bills.
4. Minutes of the September 13, 2010 OC meeting were approved as presented.
5. The next meeting of the Operating Committee is scheduled for Monday November 8, 2010 at 7:00 PM in Station 1.
6. Financial Statements – The committee reviewed the financial statements for July and August 2010.
7. CPA Audit –The committee asked the district clerk to follow up with its auditing firm on the status of the department’s checkbook audit.

8. Shady and Shelter Harbor Contracts – The District Moderator Matt Thomsen discussed with the committee a request received from representatives of the Shady and Shelter Harbor Fire Districts to reopen their Fire Protection Contracts in light of the recently completed Central Beach Contract. After discussing the matter the committee agreed not to reopen the contracts for negotiation at this time. Moderator Thomsen will respond to the districts.
9. Grange Septic System Repair Fund – After reviewing the minutes of the September 9, 2008 District Special Meeting, it was determined that there should be \$10,000 available to begin the repair project.
10. Grange Septic Replacement Project – Committee member Dan Schilke and Chief Frink updated the committee on the progress to date. It has been determined that the system will need to be designed to support a maximum occupancy of 213. Dan Schilke updated the committee on the design options being considered.
11. Grange Maintenance - Chief Frink informed the committee that several “Exit Signs” need work. Committee member Jonathan Schreier stated he would resolve the matter as well as continue work on the Grange’s egress issues.
12. Public Comments – The committee received comments from James Angelo in regards to septic designs which may be of value to district taxpayers. Mr. Angelo suggested that the district may want to hold informational meetings on the subject.
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted;

Steve White, District Clerk