

Dunn's Corners Fire District

Station 1

1 Langworthy Road

Westerly, RI

Minutes

Operating Committee Meeting

Open Public Form

October 8th, 2019

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Quonnie Grange.

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

Matthew Thomsen moderated the meeting.

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

Agenda Items:

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

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Station 1.

Motion made and seconded to move forward with developer bringing to the Department and working with the Solicitor to begin a contract.

Presentation by BDA Developer - Rockingham Estates purchased property (84 acres), they are a small developer and Aurora Leigh is presenting to the Public the need for a Contract for fire protection services from a Fire District in order to move forward with this project.

Aurora Leigh has come to Dunns Corners Fire District because of a history and willingness to work with us. Chief Degrave felt feedback from the Public is needed.

Ms. Leigh indicated that it will be a mixed use development including residential housing, restaurant, small stores, one small manufacturer. There will be built approximately 150 townhouse units (2 and 3 bedrooms). The landscape will include a playground, walking paths, picnic areas and gardens. They are looking to attract young couples and are suggesting discounts for firefighters and police officers. They are proposing a fire substation at the development for fire needs.

Jeff Thomas asked is there limits on the commercial occupancies. Ms. Leigh stated that it is predominantly residential, they are not commercial developers.

Jim Angelo stated this was a great pitch. Why wouldn't they go out to an RFP and let others bid. Ms. Leigh indicated small developer doesn't usually do this and they are happy with the good repoire they have with Dunns Corners Fire District.

Mike Frink, former chief, asked if this doesn't get approved they are in the same situation. Ms. Leigh hopes to move forward with a new history. Chief Degrave made history very clear and wanted public to speak their thoughts. Everyone seems to be on board.

Taxpayer asked is this a long term intent to be under contract or become part of Bradford. Matthew Thomsen stated that the District has to do the right thing. Ken stated this developer has done other mill development in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Jim Angelo asked who is building substation. Aurora Leigh states it is a work in progress. Fire hydrants will be on property. No sprinkler systems will be in the apartment buildings.

Taxpayer asked if testing had been done. Aurora Leigh indicated yes and no. Receiver had done alot of testing and found that the contamination was not severe, and they are working with DEM and EPA. There are a couple oil tanks and asbestos pipes and that work has been done to make save.

Bob Delaney asked about the lagoons that are leaching. Aurora Leigh indicated that the Receiver owns the lagoons. DEM has done extensive testing. They are content with the chemical testing that was done and the chemicals are not airborne. DEM testing is very serious. Chief Degrave indicates the District needs to rely on reports from DEM, EPA and the Town of Westerly. He states the State of Rhode Island has been very good to work with regarding discussions regarding fire protection, etc.

Mike Frink asked if the solicitor has been involved. Chief states Attorney Cozzolino has been involved and he does not think there is any liability to Dunns Corners Fire District.

Jeff Thomas indicated he is going back to the Department with all of this information before he will vote. He feels they have a say since they are the people providing the service.

Other Business – NONE

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk