

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Tele-Remote Minutes
Operating Committee Meeting
July 7, 2020

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6:30 PM tele-remotely.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Interim Chief Keith Kenyon, Deputy Chief Chris DeGrave, Bob Delaney, Rich Thomsen, Ken Martin, John Merkel and Matthew Thomsen. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Representative of the Friends of the Quonchontaug Grange (FOTQG).

Matthew Thomsen coordinated the meeting through the Zoom application.

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

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting started at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be determined after the Annual Meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 Operating Committee meeting correcting the minor changes.*

Friends of the Quonchontaug Grange (FOTQG) –

Impact of COVID19 on rentals

- a. Plan for resumption of rentals underway based on RI Government mandates and guidelines – Notice posted on website and emailed to all past and present renters.
- b. Addendum added to Rental Agreements.
- c. Proposed Rental Income Budget was sent to Bob Delaney.

Work at the Grange

- Repairs to interior stairs to lower level completed
- HC Accessible sink installed in Left (East) bathroom
- Work bench being installed in Storage Room completed

- Three remaining electrical repairs, Modine Electrical cleanup, Fan over the stage area (FOTQG) and Safety Lighting at doorway at bottom of interior stairs (DCFD) completed
- Exterior trim painting as approved to be complete July/August timeframe.
- Installation of Wall board in back (south) entry way room underway, in progress should be completed in July (FOTQG volunteer)
- Continue to monitor runoff issue in crushed asphalt portion of parking area related to street drainage.
- ADA Walkways- Charlestown Town Grant requested, awaiting third quote this week.
- Butler/Caterer's kitchen status – obtaining quotes to sheetrock walls, refurbish cabinets, install dropped ceiling tiles, evaluating appliances and replacement sink.
- Working on bids for Ultraviolet (UV) system

Any questions/comments

Bob Delaney asked if quotes were in line with what was expected, Ann said they were.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported that Financial Statements were to the positive last month and now we are in the negative \$14,000.00 Bob would prefer that be looked at and corrected so we are not showing a loss.

Bob asked to look into costs that were charged into this month and may be should have been prior month, and an adjustment could be made.

Mary Rathbun and Kerry will look at what was coded in. Kerry thinks its an insurance payment that was paid out. She is going to look into it.

June and July we had a loss because we are collecting taxes at this time. There is ample cash on hand. Bob again indicates that paying off the Washington Trust Company \$35,000.00 loan helped the budget.

Chief Kenyon say \$30,000.00 in apparatus repairs may have been charged in and caused the negative.

Bob states that additional work is to be done on Financial Statements so that they accurately depict the years activity.

Motion made, seconded and so voted to accept Treasurer's Report.

Chief's Report – Interim Chief Keith Kenyon reported that all the apparatus are working fine and in full service.

There were 102 hours total in training.

There were 18 F.C.; 37 ESC; 7 Plan Review and 14 Inspections.

The Department is continuing to monitor Covid-19 matters. All members are in good shape and no one has tested positive.

Chief DeGrave is working with Tony Spino from Dunn's Corners Market regarding the fence between the properties.

Mike's Computer Company is almost done installing all new computer equipment and upgrading software.

By-Law Committee has been organized.

Motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept Chief's Report.

Moderator's Report – Matt Thomsen indicated that he is ending his term as Moderator and will be willing and is offering to be the Nominating Committee Chair if the Operating Committee wants him. He will sit on Operating Committee for one more year. Bob Delaney thinks an Operating Committee Member can be the Nominating Committee Chair. Attorney Cozzolino had the charter, and he indicated it doesn't preclude an Operating Committee Member from being a Chair of any committee. John Merkel is good with Attorney Cozzolino's opinion.

Matt indicates, in his opinion, the past the communication between the Operating Committee and the Chief had not been that great, and he thinks the charter does not address it correctly. He feels there cannot be conflicts any more. The communication needs to be good.

Ken Martin indicated as representative of the Department it is very hard to regulate people coming forth and talking about matters.

John Merkel feels that Operating Committee discussions need to be stifled but let them know information will be passed along.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept Moderator's Report.

Other Business –

Bradford Industrial Park – there was nothing to report. Bob Delaney suggested we should send letter to Town to let them know the status of this matter. Attorney Cozzolino and Matt Thomsen say this is not necessary.

July 13th Blood Drive – Bob Delaney asked about this event being held by Randall Realtors. Mary Rathbun stated that Randall Realtors is using the Department room. She stated that something will be put on the website regarding this event.

Legal Matters – Attorney Cozzolino stated there was nothing to report.

Public Comments –

The matter of Jim Angelo's email – Ken Martin indicated that the Committee never met. The Ethics Committee did not rule upon this. There was question if this really was a resolution.

Jim Angelo states he had spoken to Ethics Commission and was told you have to amend charter to eliminate the conflict of interest. Bob Delaney asked what is the conflict? Jim states the Operating Committee hired the Chief and he sits on the Operating Committee. Attorney Cozzolino states Chief must be on the Operating Committee per the Charter, but is always recused when there is discussion regarding his job performance or salary and benefits.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk