

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
October 12, 2021

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM at Station One, One Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, Robert Delaney, John Merkel, Ken Martin, William Balcezak and Attorney Michael Cozzolino. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange.

John Merkel coordinated the meeting.

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 and a Moment of Silence.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM at Station 1.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 Operating Committee meeting.*

FOTQG Report –

Rental Updates:

Some additional cancellations of larger group events over current COVID status/concerns
Exercise classes booked into winter months

Upcoming/Ongoing Maintenance items:

Shingling east and north side shingle repairs
HVAC maintenance

There was discussion regarding Mr. York cannot commit to our time schedule. Ann indicated he is available in the spring.

Bob Delaney would like to use him, but feels Mr. York needs to commit to the price and lock in materials.

Committee agrees with Bob.

Chief will talk to Mr. York.

There was discussion regarding the use of the field. Ann indicated the renters were pleased but she feels there could be parking issues, she is going to work on this with Rich Thomsen.

Bus stop is working for the AM pickup, and the afternoon pickup is still a work in progress.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported as follows:

The finances are well against the Budget.

Bob indicates there is a need to look at billings for contracting districts.

There is still discussion with Dunns' Corners Market regarding the fence, they are getting two quotes for the repair of fence.

Bob suggested the district to sponsor a Shred-it day as a way of fire prevention. Bob will do the investigating regarding how to go about it. John Merkel thinks it's a good idea.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Tax Assessors/Collector's Report – Rosalind Choquette reported that the office has been extremely busy for the month of September with collection of current and past due taxes.

Changes in mailing addresses and property sales since bills were mailed in late August were adjusted to be remailed to the correct owner and/or mailing address.

Collector became aware during collections that some properties had not received bills. She contacted QDS and this was rectified.

Collector delivered a spreadsheet to Committee regarding the collections from Westerly and Charlestown as well as collectively.

The office will be reviewing outstanding prior taxes, interest and fees due the district in the next few months. It is the collector's intention to rectify charges that had been applied from 2017 and prior years that appear within the system. She is hopeful to have everything cleaned up within the system prior to next years billing so all properties will be current on what is due to the district.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Tax Collectors report.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

There were 20 F.C.; 13 EMS for a total of 33; Fire Marshall - 20 residential, 5 plan reviews, 5 commercial

There were four new members read into the Department

DEM grant for \$5,000.00 was accepted, contract was signed and sent back.

Office Assistant position being reposted, 8 hours weekly/\$15.00 per hour.

Sprinkler Inspection was done – Chief has quote and he will coordinate inspection.

Chief indicates that are still discussing the COVID funds with the Towns.

Chief stated that the Westerly YMCA swim team would like to use parking lot for a car wash. He feels it is a good community event.

Bob Delaney asked about trees to be trimmed. There was discussion and it will be looked into.

With regard to the credit card, Chief feels that going forward the points should be used every month towards the bill. He feels this is the best way to handle this. He will phone the credit card representative and set this up.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Chief's Report.

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel states the following:

Moderator is still working on matters regarding the public records status.

Chief's contract had been discussed with the Chief, there are a few minor changes that will be sent to Attorney Cozzolino for revisions.

John has finally gotten through to Honor Flights regarding credit card points. Chris will donate is points to the Honor Flight Program to resolve this matter.

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

Other Business

Moderator Succession Plan – Moderator indicated that Hugh did not have time to commit to the Committee. He indicated that the Moderator has to be a taxpayer. John is willing to stay as Moderator to the Annual Meeting but no further. He will continue working on and take any ideas from anyone.

QCBFD Contract – John has written an email to their Moderator. Rich Thomsen feels its to the point. Bill thought the format should be changed. John will make minor changes and forward to QCBFD Moderator.

Fire Access Roads – There is an agreement and specifications regarding speed bumps. Bill has all recommendations ready. Bill and the Chief will continue to work on together.

Public Comments – NONE

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk