

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
November 9, 2021

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, November 9, 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, December 14, 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 November 9, 2021 Operating Committee meeting.*

FOTQG Report –

Rental Updates:

Status quo, rentals continue to be more limited than usual, some family parties returning

Grange Piano replacement completed and to be tuned

Upcoming/Ongoing Maintenance items:

Shingling east and north side shingle repairs –

Chief indicates springtime works for the contractor

Holiday Singalong – December 12, 2021

There are no more issues with the bus stop

Bob asked about trimming of trees – Ann states it was done and all cleaned up

Bob asked about fuel deliveries – no billings have been received.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported as follows:

The finances are well against the Budget, best condition ever.

Bob indicated about first reminder bills being sent out the first two weeks of December. Mary thinks the Tax Collector is sending out as they go along.

Bob would like to see the Profit and Loss of the Tax Sale.

Bob indicated that \$57,000 was being paid to The Washington Trust Company Loan for the Tower Truck this month.

Bill asked about the budget – he was not use to this Profit Loss set up. He has no issue with it, he was just asking.

With regard to the fencing they are getting quotes. Mary asked about painting it.

The Shred It Day – could cost between 800/1000 for three hours. Bob was thinking maybe we could partner with someone the later part of next year.

Bob spoke with Bradford Moderator about Engine 5 – Moderator is presenting it to his Board regarding DCFD purchasing.

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

Tax Assessors/Collector's Report – Rosalind Choquette, Tax Assessor was not present.

Report was tabled for next month.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

Will update next month Fire Calls and EMS Calls; Fire Marshall - 12 residential, 9 plan reviews, 2 commercial

There was another new members read into the Department

Chief discussed HVAC – spoke with Buckley Oil, no one does contracts any more, no new work being taken; Boss Oil & Heating will do repairs and are very willing to work with the station, they had best prices for (heat and propane)

Sprinkler Inspection was done – All pieces have been ordered and the project will continue.

All doors and bays at Station One are working.

Chief stated that the Westerly YMCA car wash was well attended, it was the most profitable for them.

Chief and Bob Delaney indicated that they are working on a draft for a capital plan and will get it to the Operating Committee soon.

Dry hydrant was flushed and worked properly.

DOT planning work on Route 91 – for 90 days closing the road to work on bridge over the marsh (June, July, Aug), could make timing longer for EMS or Fire Department if vehicles have to go around.

There was discussion with Randall Realtor's attorney regarding attempting to put in ten apartments where back building is. Their concern is access to get out of parking lot. Chief asked about fire fighters having the ability to rent an apartment, they would look at that as an idea. At this time, there is no time frame.

John Merkel feels they should present this idea to the Broad, it should not be presented by the Chief.

Ken Martin says that they need to bring a site plan and the information to go with it.

Chief asked Ann if we could put a wind sock on the grange for the helicopter without interfering with the historical part of the building – Ann will send out email to members to check on if there are any issues with that

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

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel states the following:

John has no new information regarding Moderator Succession Plan. Spoke to Matt Thomsen he has nothing to report. Mary Rathbun thought maybe DCFD should post it on website.

With regard to QCBFD contract – Mary indicates all contract invoices went out about two weeks ago.

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

Other Business

Fire Access Roads – Bill has a first draft of recommendations. Town of Charlestown indicates you cannot just cut down trees because of a Civil Defense Rule. Bill is looking for input from the Operating Committee and Attorney Cozzolino.

Bob asked if we should take an inventory of the issues. Bill agrees this probably should be done.

West Beach Property – Bob will contact Weekapaug Land Trust regarding potential funding. Bill says it is a good idea to tie in with Land Trust now, Bob doesn't think they will.

Public Comments – Ernie Rathbun says using up the lot for Randall Realtor’s purposes will not help us if we wanted to add on to the building. He thinks we should not give it up.

John Merkel says maybe we should tell Randall Realtors we have questions before agreeing to anything.

Meeting tabled at 7:54 PM to go into Executive Session.

Meeting reconvened at 8:43 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk