

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

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM tele-remotely.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Chief Keith Kenyon, Bob Delaney, Ken Martin, Michael Cozzolino, Esq., and John Merkel. 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 6:54 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

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

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 of the Operating Committee meeting.*

FOTQG Report – Impact of Covid 19 continues on rentals, resuming rentals within RI government mandates and guidelines; new monthly rentals are going well; shortfall on forecasted rentals due to Covid 19 impacts; plan is to send next payment as soon as the next threshold is met, anticipating February if no further pause is required.

FOTQG Lease extension – Quonochontaug Historical Society has provided their intent to extend sub lease extension.

Work at the Grange: is being done – continue to monitor runoff issue in crushed asphalt portion of parking area related to street drainage, will regrade after snow; butler/caterer's kitchen work underway to repaint existing cabinets, replace sinks and repair flooring, completion anticipated date moved to March.

Invitation to have OC Meeting at the Grange once restrictions allow.

Bob Delaney asked if the Group would share their most recent financial statements with the District, Ann stated she is working on it.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported that the finances are in good shape and tracking well against the budget. There was a good report given by the auditors. We are in accordance with all regulations. He indicates 94% of taxes are now collected.

Financial statements sent out. Maybe a tax lien sale later in the year (June 9th).

Bob noted that there is \$175,000.00 to use from Equipment Reserve for SCBA purchase and the balance will be a short-term loan. Bob is trying to get a low rate for this loan.

Auditor said the District can loan \$40,000.00 to Department and Department to loan back \$40,000.00 at a rate of ½% of 1%. The Department gave approval for this. Cross loan to Department, meeting obligation that was told to the taxpayers. Auditors approved and said it was doable.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted that the District would lend to the Department \$40,000.00 for a three year period and Department indicated they will loan back the \$40,000.00 to District costing \$600.00 to the District in the amount of \$200.00 per year for three years.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue the process for Tax Lien Sale on June 9, 2021.

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

Tax Assessors/Collector's Report – there is no Tax Collector at this time, and Mary Rathbun has been doing the work. Mary sent reports.

Mary indicated all taxes have been deposited and that all credit cards had been paid.

There were no questions for Mary.

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

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported the following for January

There were 13 F.C.; 6 EMS; Fire Marshall 11 residential and 4 commercial and 5 plan review ;

69 hours of training – Department is going back to small in person meets. 95% of members are vaccinated.

A final decision was made on purchase SCBAs and they should be delivered by February 12th.

A new snowblower for Station 1 has been purchased with an additional 10% off for a total of \$1,610.00. The old snow blower is out for bid, so far the highest bid is \$268.00.

There are currently 23 active firefighters (3 are on probation). There is work being done on a recruitment video with Westerly Fire Department.

There has been some thought about an incentive plan and how to make it easier, Covid has slowed program down. There is a push for the Junior Member program. Planning to attend High School events.

Bob indicates this a great plan. Keith is working hard to make program work.

Bob Delaney asked about sending letters to landlords with multi-properties. Keith indicates you can send letters, but landlords won't let you in. Keith will check regarding letters and what kind of notification can be sent.

Bob Delaney asked about credit card use for reward points. There are quite a number of points accumulated. The Chief indicated he experienced an issue when he tried to purchase the new snow blower. He was advised that the card was either closed or suspended. Bob thinks Solicitor should send a letter to credit card company to question why the card is closed or suspended. It should also discuss the need to retrieve reward points earned over the past couple of years.

A motion was made and seconded for Solicitor Cozzolino to write a letter to credit card company regarding retrieving points.

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

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel commended the Department for a job well done at a terrible fire on Saturday night.

John discussed Matt Thomsen's resignation letter and that Matt wishes to remain as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept Matthew Thomsen's resignation after decades of service.

A note will be sent to Matt along with a gift card.

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

Other Business

Bob Delaney and Michael Cozzolino are working with Shelter Harbor regarding contract.

Bradford Fire District Tax Contract Renewal Agreement – Bob indicates the contract ends May 31, 2021 and it should continue. An auto renewal clause of 150 days should be included, which will get us just prior to budget.

There have been some issues with payment on due date. After five days late interest to accrue at 12% per annum.

Bob indicated that they should pay on time. Michael Cozzolino will make these adjustments to proposed contract.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to modify Bradford Fire District Contract as modified tonight.

Public Comments – NONE

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk