

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

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM at Station 1, One Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Chief Keith Kenyon, Bob Delaney, Ken Martin, Richard Thomsen, and John Merkel. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange, Quonochontaug Central Beach Moderator and Treasurer.

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, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 of the Operating Committee meeting.*

FOTQG Report – Impact of Covid 19 continues on rentals, resuming rentals within RI government mandates and guidelines; shortfall on forecasted rentals due to Covid 19 impacts;

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. Additional rentals causing some delays due to contractors working around rental schedule.

Work parties will be reinitiated after restrictions are lifted.

The Grange President presented a listing of their volunteer work and dollars spent improving the building over the past five years.

Bob Delaney mentioned that the idea is to make the Grange self-sustaining. John thinks it is good for the community.

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 97.3% of taxes are now collected.

Bob noted that there is an uptick in fuel bills and that the SCBA purchase has been paid for.

The audit was fine and there is only one bill to look over with Mary Rathbun.

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. Everything is all caught up.

There are four letters that need to be written. Mary and Bob talked to Washington Trust Company regarding a lock box system but to date there has been no response.

The tax sale process is moving forward for June.

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

There were 27 F.C.; 5 EMS; Fire Marshall 18 residential and 0 commercial and 1 plan review;

142 hours of total combined training.

Purchase of SCBAs is complete. There is a 15-year pack life on the new equipment. The old packs have no value. Training is to begin on new equipment.

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

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel indicated he had sat down with Bob Delaney and Chief Kenyon to work on the Chief's contract.

Bob wants to discuss parcel on West Beach Road, and would like to see if the land trust would be interested in Property.

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

Other Business

Rosalind Choquette attended tonight's meeting. She gave a brief Resume of her abilities and her experience with the QDS software for Tax Collectors, and her availability as a prospective Tax Collector. As new Tax Collector/Tax Assessor subject to background check.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to hire Rosalind Choquette as the new Tax Collector/Tax Assessor.

Discussion regarding the contract renewals with Shelter Harbor, Shady Harbor, and QCB. Ken Martin agrees contracts should all be the same. Bob Delaney agrees that the contracts should automatically renew each year unless a District opts out with at least 150 days written notice. John Merkel is working with each of the moderators. Bradford's contract is complete and executed.

Bob Delaney asked about roads within QCB relative to pot holes, trees overhanging the road and there are issues for the trucks when traveling on the roads. Can the District help? The Moderator indicated they have public works people who are fixing holes. John asked that Keith Kenyon have a listing of roads with issues prepared to pass on to QCB for consideration of improvements.

QCB Moderator asked about dry hydrants. Chief indicates they are looking into reviewing them once warmer weather arrives.

Public Comments – NONE

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk