

**Dunn's Corners Fire District**  
**Operating Committee Meeting**  
April 13, 2021

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, April 13, 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, John Merkel and Attorney Michael Cozzolino. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange, Quonochontaug Central Beach 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, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the March 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;

FOTQG contribution March through May – after an internal discussion and consideration of the additional COVID-19 cleaning requirements of the past year, FOTQG offer to cover the cleaning expense. Bob Delaney thinks it is very nice of them to take care of.

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 once the kitchen is complete.

Bob has a person who will take pictures of the work that has been completed for everyone to be able to see.

Work parties will be reinitiated after restrictions are lifted. First item is to paint the boiler room.

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 indicates some planning needs to be done for next truck purchase.

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

Tax Assessors/Collector's Report – Rosalind Choquette presented her report. There has been a delinquent list compiled and the ninety-day notice is out.

Mary and Rosalind are working together to rectify the outstanding bills with discrepancies.

The email is not working, however Chief Kenyon is working on it to get it up and running again.

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

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

There were 25 F.C.; 6 EMS; Fire Marshall 12 residential, 0 commercial, 23 inspections;

191 hours of total combined training.

Tower 5 is out of commission; all other equipment is in service.

Gretchen Riggins resigned two weeks ago, and Chief wishes her well. He will be posting the part time position which is a total of 10 hours weekly.

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

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel indicated with regarding to pending legislation (H5269) he will contact Senator and Representative if this is something we should worry about. Ken Martin indicates that the Fire Association is aware of this and they are opposed to it. Not asking for any action unless someone has issue with Moderator contacting Senator.

Budget matters were discussed – Chief will work on. Bob Delaney is looking at capital items. Bob indicates he has begun working on this, to talk about at the next meeting. Trying to keep budget no higher than 2%. There has been no luck on any grants recently.

Discussion regarding West Beach Road Property – suggesting a land preserve to take over. Attorney Cozzolino explained how the redemption process works. Attorney Cozzolino

recommend Attorney Kelly Fracassa to do this work. Moderator suggests we contact Kelly for an estimate of costs.

Bob Delaney spoke to Attorney Arthur Reed regarding costs if owner wishes to redeem it could cost anywhere from 5,000 – 12,000. Should property be surveyed, should grants be applied for. Next step contact Town of Charlestown regarding their interest in Property. Hire a surveyor to find the points. Rich will contact Town of Charlestown and will touch base next meet.

With regard to the Fire District Contracts:

QCB – Julia is at meeting. There are concerns about how DCFD calculates mill rate. John indicates the District will fix any errors. She made clear have our fee to value of the buildings in QCB.

Bob asked if she felt they had been charged incorrectly. How did the rate go up 10% every year, she feels they are being killed with land tax when it's the same building for fire service.

Bob indicates that we have not increased to the level of 10%, and that in fact DCFD increases are not a lot.

Why are taxpayers of QCB upset when 35% of their budget is going to fire district. There are no volunteers coming from QCB.

Julia indicates they are trying to figure out what works best for the community.

John indicated that he and Bob will work together to figure this out. There is urgency to get this situation figured out. Ken indicates we are a fire district.

Operating Committee remains unconvinced about what QCB complains about.

Shelter Harbor – they are satisfied with contract. Want it to auto renew with notice. Upcharge language is staying in. Attorney Cozzolino will draw up contract.

Shady Harbor – is staying the same, no new contract needed.

Chief's Contract – is still the same. John wants Operating Committee to look at next meeting.

Bob Delaney asked about the progress regarding QCB Roads – Chief is working on it. It is a slow process but it is on the list.

Bob asked about letter regarding multiple family units being sent to owners to bring houses up to code. Chief states owners sign off saying they are responsible for house inspections. State Fire Marshall is trying to rectify.

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

Other Business

Discussion regarding letter that was sent in February regarding credit card points. Mary and Attorney Cozzolino are working on this.

Public Comments – Jim Angelo wants to know who sponsored Bill (H-5269) John told him he could look up the bill. Mr. Angelo will call his representative.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk