

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
May 11, 2021

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM at Station 1, One Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Chief Keith Kenyon, Ken Martin, Richard Thomsen, John Merkel 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, June 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Grange.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 Operating Committee meeting.*

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 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. Considering options to help control this issue.

Butler/Caterer's Kitchen Status – Kitchen is completed. Looking forward to providing a tour to the OC during the June OC meeting.

Re-shingling – East side (priority) and North side, FOTQG will assist in getting quotes to help move this capital expense item forward.

Marketing – FOTQG will be moving forward as things continue to reopen with a marketing effort. FOTQG respectfully requests a contact from the OC to work with on any combined marketing efforts.

Recycling effort – FOTQG is interested in looking with the DCFD at a recycling bin for Station2/Grange usage to limit the dumpster trash, with special attention to cardboard recycling.

Volunteer work parties will be reinitiated after restrictions are lifted.

Treasurer's Report – In Bob Delaney's absence Moderator read his report as follows:

The District's financial position remains very strong with total revenue tracking close to 103% of budget.

Expenses have been handled well against budget overall and hopefully the Board of Engineers can hold off on some noncritical items, until the new budget year begins June 1st. We should be able to keep our tax increase at 1% for coming 21-22 fiscal year.

Bob would appreciate a vote to allow payoff of the Car 1 and Station 2 loans during early June. This will save us further interest.

The tax lien sale in June will clear out most of the remaining past dues. Those left unpaid should be reviewed by the Operating Committee.

Additionally Bob feels the minimum billing fee should increase to at least \$7.50 from the current rate of \$5.00. It has not been raised in quite some time now.

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

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to payoff the Car 1 and Station 2 loans in June.

There was discussion regarding the minimum billing fee, and it was decided to discuss with Bob regarding the increase prior to voting on.

Tax Assessors/Collector's Report – Rosalind Choquette presented her report.

The Tax Collector's Office has been receiving payment from many clients whose properties were placed on the listing for Tax Sale. We currently have 38 properties to date which are still on the Tax Sale Listing which comprise 12 properties located in Charlestown and 26 properties located in Westerly.

The office has applied appropriate fees for work performed in relation to the Tax sale with the upcoming 40-day notice fee of \$12.00 to be applied on May 11, 2021.

The office has also been receiving payments from other clients whose properties were in the delinquent but not listed for Tax Sale.

The office continues to make every effort to respond to calls and emails in a timely fashion.

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

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

There were 28 F.C.; 15 EMS; Fire Marshall 27 residential, 10 commercial, 37 inspections;

162 hours of total combined training.

HumV has arrived, and all paperwork has been received. There are four new tires on the vehicle and it is being serviced.

Working with Mike's Computer regarding networking matters.

Chief is getting an estimate for blinds in the meeting area.

He has had some interaction with new recruits expressing interest, some Jr. Members as well.

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

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel indicated that the budget should remain at 2% or no increase.

He is working with Attorney Cozzolino regarding contracts for Shelter Harbor and QCB, and is hopeful to have executed by May 31, 2021.

He is also still working on the Chief's contract and will have completed soon.

With regard to Legislation (H5269) he has had a conversation with Blake Filippi who indicates the bill is dead. He also contacted Senator Algieri who was unaware of any Senate version of the bill, and Chief Susi indicates it will probably never come to life.

Jim Angelo stated HMOs and Condominium Associations can also conduct lien sales. John feels this is not a threat to the District.

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

Other Business

At Large Member Position – William Balcezak of East Beach Road introduced himself with some interest in the position. He would like to learn more about the OC before offering his candidacy for At Large Member.

District Property off West Beach – matter was passed until next month, John would like Bob Delaney's input on this matter.

Pay raises for District Employees – was discussed and a

Motion was made, seconded and approved to give Mary Rathbun, Chief Keith Kenyon, and Fire Marshall, Jim Bobola a 3% annual increase.

Keith Kenyon abstained from the vote.

Discussion regarding Public Record Request

Motion was made, seconded and approved to give John Merkel permission to work on revising the Public Records Request form.

Public Comments – Jim Angelo asked about the Chief’s report and how he reports the different calls from the different areas. Chief states after the Annual Meeting in July, he will break down every six months each area.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk