

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
August 17, 2021

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 6:30 PM at Station One, One Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Ken Martin, Richard Thomsen, Robert Delaney, John Merkel and William Balcezak. 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, September 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 July 13, 2021 Operating Committee meeting.*

Motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint John Merkel as Moderator of the Dunn's Corners Fire District for one-year term.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Robert Delaney as Treasurer of the Dunn's Corners Fire District for one-year term. (with Robert Delaney sustaining)

Motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Rosalind Choquette as Tax Collector/Tax Assessor of the Dunn's Corners Fire District for one-year term.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Linda F. Garabedian as District Clerk of the Dunn's Corners Fire District for one-year term.

FOTQG Report – Rental are status quo, rentals continue to be more limited than usual;

Weekly cleaning costs to be paid by FOTQG for current fiscal year.

Work at the Grange:

Butler/Caterer's Kitchen – warming ovens received.

Upcoming/Ongoing Maintenance items:

Shingling east and north side

Three quotes received, one withdrew, providing copies to OC

FOTQG recommends the lower priced bidder based on the available quote information, but both remaining contractors come with good recommendations.

Bill Meyer has volunteered to be the Clerk of the Works

Recommended timing between October 31, 2021 and November 21, 2021 to avoid conflict with the monthly renters that require a quieter environment.

John Merkel, Bill Balcezak and Bob Delaney had discussion with Ann regarding quotes and recommendation.

A motion was made, second and approved to offer contract to York Construction at the specified amount on the bid, with the exception of insulation portion which we would like them to revisit.

It is noted that this is the same contractor who did the siding work on the building years ago.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported as follows:

The finances are in excellent shape.

Bob indicated that there is approximately \$57,000 to pay on Tower Truck and \$40,000 to pay on Engine 4.

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

Tax Assessors/Collector's Report – Rosalind Choquette reported that the office has been preparing for the upcoming tax season. She has organized last season's tax collection documents in preparation of the audit next week.

The office has had redemption requests from three of the six properties that were sold at Tax Sale in June. One of the three has been totally redeemed while the other two she is waiting payoff which has been mailed to the office.

The office has made every effort to respond to calls and emails in a timely fashion and continues with the collection of outstanding taxes.

John asked when will bills go out, Rosalind indicated by the end of August.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Tax Collectors report.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve .459 for district taxpayers mill rate for the fiscal year 21/22 with a 4% discount off that rate (.441) for contracting districts.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon was away so John Merkel reported as follows:

DEM grant was submitted and accepted into the selection process.

New blinds were installed in meeting room at Station 1.

New weekend duty shifts started August 7th. Duty shift seemed to work well on the first weekend. Crews were able to make a quick initial response to calls. On one call crews responded to an EMS call with a person in anaphylaxis due to multiple bee stings. They arrived first and were able to quickly administer Medication.

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

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel states the following:

QCB does not want a perpetual contract. They will sign a one year contract. John says OC can decide this. Bob says three year contract is what it should be. If QCB says no, OC members should go to the August 28, 2021 meeting.

John Merkel was getting hold of Sue ASAP so this can get done this fall. If there is push back he will send delegation and ask for a few minutes to speak. Bob would like an email or this in writing.

Matt Thomsen and Gina will join next meeting to work on the Nominating Committees plans.

Attorney Cozzolino is reworking Chief's contract and John and Bob will review with Chief.

John has worked with Mary Rathbun regarding credit card points. John reviewed the matter with previous Chief who indicates he doesn't disagree but states he has not used any points. There are 92,000 points that belonged to the District. The previous Chief was asked to donate \$500.00 to District to resolve matter and be done with it. It was mentioned to ask previous Chief to donate points to Honor Flights.

A motion was made to direct John Merkel to check with Honor Flights for donation, then ask previous chief to donate points to Honor Flights, it was seconded and so voted with four yes and one oppose. Motion passed.

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

Other Business

West Beach Property – Bob asked about status of Central Beach Roads. Central Beach feels we are pressuring them. Dylan indicates all roads are bad, ie speed bumps, ruts, branches, etc.

Ken states maybe we should have modifications of roads, ie speed bumps the same for all districts. May be there should be standards and compliance for all.

Bill indicates it's a town road – he can look into it. Bill will write standards and consult with the Chief.

Bradford Fire District wants copy of Chief's Report by its Annual Meeting.

Mary Rathbun asked for a desk scanner for depositing checks into District account. Cost is approximately \$565.00. There will be no charges for deposits. Mary said there is no additional labor. She will write policy and run it by Bob.

Motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve funds to purchase scanner, Mary Rathbun to revise policy with Bob Delaney and authorize Bob Delaney to sign contract to purchase, authorizing Mary Rathbun to establish a user account. New policy to be reviewed with auditors.

Public Comments – Ken asked about West Beach Property.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk