

**Dunn's Corners Fire District**  
**Operating Committee Meeting**  
September 14, 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 - 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, October 12, 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 August 17, 2021 Operating Committee meeting.*

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

There have been requests to use the back field

The Grange Piano has been replaced/removed

Bus Stop at Grange/Station 2 for Compass School – Bob Delaney asked about the tree and is it a concern for the bus stop.

Upcoming/Ongoing Maintenance items:

Shingling east and north side

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported as follows:

The finances are well against the Budget.

Bob indicates that by the end of December we should start to look at five year plan and update.

Still discussing the fence with Dunns Corners Market.

*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 is working with Quality Data Services to organize prior taxes due so they will appear on the upcoming bills.

All prior taxes due on property appeared at the bottom of the bill with the current taxes due in the center of the bill. Taxes were easily identified by the tax year in which the taxes were paid. Bills were mailed out on August 30<sup>th</sup> and are due and payable September 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

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

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

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

There were 62 F.C.; 18 EMS for a total of 80; Fire Marshall - 5 residential, 5 plan reviews – 15 Smoke Certificates

DEM grant for \$5,000.00 was accepted.

Office Assistant position being reposted.

Duty shift has been working very well and is going to end of September and will begin again Memorial Day.

Have spoken to Bradford Moderator and has approval to sell DCFD Engine 5.

Bob Delaney indicated that there is money coming to the Towns for Fire Districts and that it should be looked into. Chief said they are discussing it.

Bill asked about grant writing, and that maybe enlisting a URI student as an intern to do some volunteer writing could be helpful.

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

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel states the following:

Moderator is still working on matters regarding the public records status.

Chief's contract has been given to him for review.

John has run into a snag with the credit card points but he is still working on it.

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

Other Business

Moderator Succession Plan – Matt Thomsen discussed a succession plan to find members for the Operating Committee. He feels we need to make Operating Committee appealing for new members. There was discussion regarding the stipends.

John indicated Chief cannot be Moderator per the Charter. He also indicated that no one on the Operating Committee has an interest in being Moderator. Matt thinks maybe going to the banking industry, they need volunteer hours, and maybe someone who join for the hours they are required. Matt Thomsen is going to call banks in the area.

Hugh Kohan possible member of the Operating Committee came to listen and decide if he would like to contribute.

Finally, Bill indicated that he could resign and Hugh could join Operating Committee. There will be more discussion regarding this at October's meeting.

Fire Access Roads – Bill asked Chief for his thoughts about the roads. Chief indicates there are ordinances to roadway standards. Chief says that a one by one basis for each works better.

John states for the Chief and Bill to work on this together and report back.

QCB Contract – John has a letter to send to them. Bob feels it is a good letter.

John indicates he does not feel they need to read it at the Annual Meeting. Rich feels the same as John, that Sue will be insulted.

John feels we have to tell them we are assessing them the same as the other districts. We will give them time to sign contract by the end of the year and that is it.

John asks (a) does he send letter with minor corrections. Bob states that is fine. (b) are we ready for them at October meeting.

Public Comments – NONE

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk

