

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
January 11, 2022

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM tele-remotely;

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, Robert Delaney, John Merkel, Ken Martin, William Balcezak 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.

A Moment of Silence was also given for Vincent Naccarato, the District's solicitor for many years, who recently passed away.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Station 1 or tele remotely.

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

FOTQG Report –

Rental Updates:

Status quo, rentals continue to be more limited than usual, some family parties returning

Upcoming/Ongoing Maintenance items:

Shingling east and north side shingle repairs –
Chief indicates springtime works for the contractor

Update on heating contracts – Chief indicates Valley Heating & Cooling continuing all work for now.

Bob Delaney looking into CARE/ARPA Act funding for the District.

John Merkel indicates good report.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported as follows:

The financials are in good shape.

Apparatus fuel costs are running below budget.

Bob states by the end of year the District should be able to take another \$25,000.00 off the highest interest rate loan.

Chief's number for new apparatus is \$400,000 - \$550,000.00 – and what he is looking at is all basic truck because there can be a lot of add ons. He is still doing research.

Bob feels in another year the District will be in better shape for funding the new apparatus.

Bob states there is about \$220,000.00 budgeted for replacement of the next truck.. Another \$35,000.00 is reserved for the trucks equipment.

Auditors Report: - Bob reported that there were no major issues.

The Auditors felt there were no material weakness and they gave a clean audit report.

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

Tax Assessors/Collector's Report – Rosalind Choquette, Tax Assessor reported the following:

That she is currently working on a request from the Treasurer regarding recap of the tax sale results. She is also working on a list of accounts that may be uncollectible.

She is working on requests from the bookkeeper regarding printouts from the QDS system.

Delinquent notices were printed and mailed out.

She is putting together an abatement form for funds she returns.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

Fire Calls Nov.- 28 and Dec. - 20; EMS Calls Nov. - 9 and Dec. - 8; Fire Marshall – residential plan review Nov. 10, Dec. 6; residential smoke Nov - 12 and Dec. - 7 commercial plan reviews Nov. -2 and Dec. – 0; Business inspections from Sept through December 32 inspections with 12 business needing to be reinspected

Training hours – November 131 hours; December 296 hours.

There is a scheduling date for next week for the sprinklers in Station 2 and Grange.

Utilities – Boss Heating doing work at Station 1 and 2. They are very quick and doing a good job.

There have been some Covid cases in station, but it has been isolated. Hand held devices to do disinfecting were purchased and seem to work well.

Westerly Dispatch Contract has been received, and it is in the same format as prior years. Chief will send to everyone to review.

With regard to the CARE/ARPA Act – Chief is working with Fios to get into both stations. WIFI is necessary during storms, and the connection is sometimes bad.

Bob asked about Watch Hill Fire Chief retiring and if there are any concerns regarding that District's coverage. Chief indicates they are all set and everything is in good order.

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel states the following:

Central Beach contract he worked on it with Attorney Cozzolino, it's a three-year contract, and Sue has it now for her review and comments.

Public Records Request: John reviewed and updated the form from the State. It is all standard. Requests can be amended if they are too costly for the person requesting records.

Bob asked if we should have a line that indicates we should speak to the person requesting documents prior to filling the request to make sure we do so correctly and in accord with what they seek.

Jim Angelo states we should differentiate between electric or hard copies. Bob Delaney also states the form should be changed to add email addresses.

Name is not optional - Attorney Cozzolino states you need a receipt of who you gave the documents to. Mary does need proof of who she is giving documents too, we need to be able to track.

Other Business

Fire Access Roads Document – Bill sent to all Operating Committee members for comments. Very few comments were received thus far.

Chief states Shady Harbor now has speed bumps marked. Bill will look at Shady Harbor and make some more revisions to the plan.

John Merkel thinks this is a good starting point to work from. Bill will make changes and email out prior to next meeting.

Moderator Succession Planning – John will post on website for any interest parties.

Document Shredding Day – possibly end of April. The idea is to partner with Westerly Community Credit Union and Seaside Pharmacy.

Jim Angelo asked about West Beach Property – Bob contacted Land Trust they cannot get funding for two years. Bob also left message with Weekapaug Land Trust, but has not heard back from them.

Year End Recognition of Achievement Bonus – It was suggested do the same as last year. Keith worked on possibilities. Mary and Kerry also worked on. Board has to make the decision to give or not.

Keith had models for full time and part time employees, which uses a formula. This will carry over to next meeting. John asked if we ever used a formula. It was indicated that it was always done in Executive Session. Bob indicated we would use projects that had been worked on and completed as a partial basis for the incentives.

Public Comments – NONE

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk