

**Dunn's Corners Fire District**  
**Operating Committee Meeting**  
February 8, 2022

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Station One, One Langworthy Road, Westerly, RI ;

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, Robert Delaney, John Merkel, Ken Martin, William Balcezak, Chief Keith Kenyon, and Attorney Michael Cozzolino. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange, Members of BFD Truck Committee;

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.

Previous Meeting Minutes – There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of January 11, 2022 Operating Committee Minutes. The minutes were filed.

FOTQG Report –

Rental Updates: Status quo, some family parties are beginning to be booked  
Different classes are being booked five days a week

Upcoming/Ongoing Maintenance items: Storm issues and clean up were discussed  
Shingling east and north side still working on with Fred York

Bradford Fire District Truck Committee –

Brian O'Rourke was unavailable to attend this meeting, however John Stanzik spoke on behalf of him and the Bradford Fire District Truck Committee.

There was much discussion regarding the original cost of the truck and the maintenance paid over the years, in the sum total of about \$14,000.00. They indicated that everyone is very happy with the Dunn's Corners service and use of the truck. The Bradford Fire District taxpayers would just like to take the truck off their books.

Stanzik estimates the truck as a value of \$140,000 – \$160,000

Question is what value does truck have to Dunn's Corners and does Dunn's Corners have any interest in the truck.

Chief indicates the truck does provide a benefit, that it works out of Station 2, and when another vehicle is out of service it is there for use. Chief states truck is used for the Bradford area a lot as well as mutual aid when needed.

Now that Dunn's Corners knows that Bradford wants sell their truck, the Operating Committee can work on it. John Merkel indicates we will look at it now.

Bob Delaney suggested that if the truck changes hands there may need to be an adjustment to the contract as far as the cost charged to Bradford.

It was agreed that John Merkel would work with Bob Delaney and Chief Kenyon to develop a response to Bradford's request.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney reported as follows:

The financials are in good shape.

The State has indicated that it wants us to begin the process of getting quotes for the next three years of audits.

Contract District bills have been paid with the exception of Bradford's second installment.

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

The office has been working on small balances due from prior years.

She has continued to work on request from Bob Delaney regarding the recap of tax sale related costs.

She delivered spread sheets that indicated the collection rate of 99.65903%, and it was broken down separately from Westerly and Charlestown as well as together.

Delinquent notices were printed and mailed to correct owners.

The Collector asked about the IT issues. Chief indicates they are looking for a new IT guy. The Collector would like to be able to use her computer from home.

She indicated that her intention to pursue delinquent accounts rigorously such that there will not be a need for any more tax sales for the district.

She presented a listing of accounts with small dollar balances and the Operating Committee agreed to clear those accounts as the cost to collect would be more than the balances owed.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

Fire Calls Jan.- 25; EMS Calls Jan.- 9; for a total of 34 calls; Business inspections Jan. - 4

Training hours – Jan. 428 hours.

Chief indicated he is still working with Verizon regarding internet service. Cox is the supplier as of now. Verizon regional is going to send a technician to the Station. When there is a storm, the service now is very bad.

The Westerly Dispatch Contract has been executed and he is sending it out.

Pest Control has been added to Station 2. Grange indicates that they are all set for now but will continue to monitor if services are needed.

A chimney prop has been added to Station 2 for practices. He is continuing to make upgrades.

CARE/ARPA Act – Chief indicates no one has made any head way yet. This is all still up in the air.

*Motion was made, seconded and approved that Chief Kenyon and Bob Delaney have permission to send a letter to the State of Rhode Island regarding funding from the CARE/ARPA Act.*

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel states the following:

Central Beach Moderator is in Florida and she indicated her readiness to execute the contract when she returns.

Fire Access Roads – *A motion was made and seconded to approve the Fire Access Roads letter that was being sent to Contracting Districts.*

East Beach Association has met about the fire access to roads they want to know what happens if they don't do anything. After discussion it was agreed we will treat this as an educational initiative and will discuss consequences if and when appropriate. It was also agreed that the letter will be issued jointly by the District and the Department, with the Moderator and Chief both signing it.

Moderator Succession Planning – John will post on Dunns' Corners website indicating we are looking for an At Large Operating Committee Member. We are looking for a Moderator as well from this District, but we will start with getting a new At Large Member.

5 Year Capital Acquisition Plan – Chief and Bob Delaney are working on this and will have a draft for the next Operating Committee Meeting.

Document Shredding Day – Possibly at the end of April, 2022. The idea is to partner with Westerly Community Credit Union and Seaside Pharmacy.

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

Public Comments – NONE

*A motion was made, seconded and approved to convene Executive Session to discuss bonuses for District Employees at 8:10 PM.*

*A Motion was made, seconded and approved to re-convene in Open Session.*

*A motion was made, seconded and approved to seal the Executive Session Minutes.*

*A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize bonuses for District Employees.*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk