

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
April 12, 2022

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Station One, One Langworthy Road, Westerly, RI ;

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, John Merkel, Ken Martin, and William Balcezak. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange and Attorney Michael Cozzolino.

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 – Minutes of March 8, 2022 Operating Committee were filed with no changes.

FOTQG Report –

Rental Updates: Bookings are really picking up, summer meetings and family parties.

Maintenance Contracts –

HVAC Maintenance – will ac portion be serviced this spring

Verizon transition – coordinating with Tom Doyle

Grange Siding – Ann would like rescheduled for after September 1, 2022.

Absolutely no upstairs use during the time period of May 2nd through the 8th because the floors are being refinished.

They are pursuing a grant for a chair lift.

Long Range Planning – any questions or concerns please let Bob Delaney know to contact Ann.

George Prior resigned over the winter and his position was filled by Bill Wilson.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney was not in attendance but his report as follows was read by John Merkel.

The district remains in very good financial condition. Total liabilities will drop to below \$500K for the first time in decades after the April loan payment is made. The Federal Reserve Bank has begun to increase interest rates at each meeting. Consequently our loan interest rates have started to rise. To counter this increase I propose that we pay off the \$113,332.43 balance related to Tower 5 once fiscal year 2022-23 starts in June. Half of the funds will come from our general reserve account and the other half plus accrued interest from the 2022-23 budgeted funds. The ARPA funds request to the town of Westerly has been sent and a request to the RI Office of Pandemic Recovery has been made for assurance that our request meets Federal guidelines for the type of items covered. The request to Charlestown will be made in the coming weeks .

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

Work continues regarding the recap of the tax sale results as requested by Bob Delaney and Kerry for her end of year reporting.

Current collection rate is 101.50231%. The spreadsheet delivered to all members shows collections from Westerly and Charlestown separately as well as all collections together.

Processing of delinquent payments is ongoing with continued mailings for those outstanding. Changes in mailing addresses continue to be adjusted.

The office has made every effort to respond to calls and emails in a timely fashion.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon was not in attendance, and he will report next month.

CARE/ARPA Act –

Bob Delaney and Chief Kenyon are working on this and will report next month.

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel states the following:

We have an executed Contract from Central Beach.

All Ethic Filing Reports need to be turned in to the State.

Moderator Succession Planning –

It has been posted on the website.

Bob Delaney is bringing someone to next month's meeting.

Chief Kenyon's 401K Contributions in 2021 - Contributions have just begun because employee has to be employed for One year. Funds cannot be put into the account after the fact. Discussion to give Chief Kenyon the amount of \$7,161.16, which should have been funded directly to him.

A motion was made, seconded, and accepted to give Chief Kenyon up to \$7,400.00 as compensation for his 401K deposit for the year 2021.

5 Year Capital Acquisition Plan – Bob Delaney has indicated that the 5 year capital plan is close to completion and will be presented at the annual meeting after first being approved by the Operating Committee

Budget Proposal – Chief and the Board of Engineers are making progress on next year's budget . Bob Delaney is hoping for the increase in total expenses to be less than 2.5% overall.

Document Shredding Day - The free shredding day and food collection for a local food pantry is set for April 30th from 8:30 - 11:30 am . Informational announcements for this has been requested thru WBLQ radio, The Westerly Sun, FOTQG's web site , The DCFD face book page. Notices posted at Seaside Pharmacy, Westerly Credit Union and Dunn's Corners Market. Volunteers have been requested from DCFD, and Washington County Fire Police. Bob Delaney hopes that a number of you will help as well. Lite breakfast or lunch will be provided as well to those who volunteer.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Station 1.

Public Comments – NONE

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk