

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
May 10, 2022

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, May 10, 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, Bob Delaney and Chief Keith Kenyon. 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.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Minutes of April 12, 2022 Operating Committee were filed with no changes.

FOTQG Report –

Rental Updates: Bookings are really picking up, summer meetings and family parties. First Kitchen rental booked this month.

Maintenance Contracts –

Verizon Transition – please coordinate with Tom Doyle – Chief had no updates.

Tom Doyle received a call from Hoxie for annual UV bulb cleaning. Bill Meyer will coordinate

Upcoming/Ongoing Maintenance Items –

Shingling East and North Side – scheduled for the fall. Ann thanked Bob Delaney for all his help. The project may take three to four weeks. This may impact renters, but Bob indicates that much time is required.

Main Floor and Stage Floor refinishing scheduled for May 2 through May 10th. No one upstairs during that time.

Long Range Planning –

Ann will coordinate a letter with Bob to the Town of Charlestown regarding the Long Term Plan items.

There are plans for a Thank you celebration. It cannot be the 21st of July because of the Smokey the Bear Parade. It will be a Thursday night from 5 to 7 pm. There will be beer and wine, two tickets per person, all requirements will be followed. There are no issues regarding this from the Operating Committee.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney gave the following report:

The district remains in very good financial condition. Bob asking to extinguish \$113,332.43 loan balance for Tower 5 early due to rising interest rate cost, and surplus capital available. Request to be advertised on the next meeting agenda.

Bob asked to make a donation from the District Memorial Fund to First Hopkinton Baptist Church of Ashaway in the amount of \$300.00 in the name of Joe Miller who was President of the Department for many years.

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

The Tax Office continues to process write offs of small balances previously approved by the Operating Committee through the QDS system. The office is comprising names and addresses of the property owners located in the QCB and SH fire districts as requested by Bill Balcezak.

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

Rosalind was thanked by John and Bob for her good work.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

Fire Calls Mar. 16; EMS 6 for a total of 22. Fire Marshall – 9 residential; 12 residential plan review; 2 commercial plan review;

Training Hours 642 hours.

Fire Calls Apr. 11; EMS 6 for a total of 17. Fire Marshall – 15 residential CO; 7 residential plan reviews; 3 commercial plan reviews.

Training Hours 224 hours.

Verizon is still a work in progress. Does have a good contract now. The email address will remain the same, but there will be many more use options.

Duty Shifts on weekends will begin again Memorial Day through Labor Day

July 7th the bridge will go out on Route 91 so response time may vary.

Ken asked about 501C – can a Fire District have this option. It is only for non profits and a fire district or a municipality cannot have this option.

The Humvee project is moving along and coming to a close.

CARE/ARPA Act –

Letter was sent to the Town of Westerly with description of what we are asking for. Trying to keep it simple, not asking for a lot \$171,069.00. Charlestown just starting to receive letters. Trying to make that letter specific to Charlestown/Grange area.

We have heard nothing from the State regarding its program. Grange is also doing a letter to Charlestown to add to our letter.

Moderator's Comments – John Merkel he will post on the website the Annual Meeting information.

Moderator Succession Planning –

Nothing to report.

Auditors Selection –

Bob Delaney indicates report is outlined and that two choices had worked for us in the past . One auditor's cost had increased 80% since last year. One auditor that quoted has serviced five other Districts and he is comfortable that they would do a good job,

It's a three year contract and the State likes to see this for continuity proposes.

John Merkel will fill out the last required scoring form.

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. Suggesting to replace Engine 6 and Chief's vehicle.

Budget Proposal – First rough draft – still trying to maintain budget from last year. Fuel is the only question, utilities for Station 2 (extra electric and oil are higher)

Document Shredding Day - Mary Rathbun and Rich Thomsen thought it wen well. 52 cars came through. Maybe try and do it twice a year, piggy back with an open-house. The Operating Committee recognizes and thanks Seaside Pharmacy and Westerly Credit Union for their sponsorships.

A check and canned goods were donated to the Johnny Cake Center of Westerly.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Station 1.

Public Comments – NONE

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:28 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk