

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
June 14, 2022

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, June 14, 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, Bill Balcezak, and Chief Keith Kenyon. 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 May 10, 2022 Operating Committee were filed with no changes.

FOTQG Report –

Rental Updates: Bookings are really picking up and there is hope for the new year
First Kitchen rental booked.

Maintenance Contracts –

Verizon Transition – is still underway. Back to a new representative and there are no issues.
Trying to keep repairs down and budgeted as planned.

Upcoming/Ongoing Maintenance Items –

Chief will double check the HVAC cleaning status and get back to Ann.

Shingling East and North Side – scheduled for the fall. Ann thanked Bob Delaney for all his help.

Main Floor and Stage Floor refinishing is completed.
The piano is being tuned.

Ann will continue to work on ARPA letter and send to the Chief for his review and comments.

There are plans for a Thank you celebration which will be held at the Grange on July 28, 2022.

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

The district remains in excellent financial condition.

Bob met with auditors. He feels that they will be a good fit with the District.

The end of the year money will be spent to get trucks up to date. Humvee money will come out of next year's budget.

Bob received a call from Glen Berwick from Shelter Harbor regarding revalue increase of 44%, Bob indicated to him it is out of our control that it is based on the Town's new assessment.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to payoff the Washington Trust Company Loan with an approximate balance of \$113,000.00 plus interest.

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

The Tax Office mailed out 185 delinquent notices to residences for taxes due. The office will continue to send notifications to taxpayers until the end of July at which time preparation for the new tax season will begin.

On June 3rd Assessor met with Quality Data Services at the location in Wallingford for one-on-one instructions. The instructions provided were at no cost to the District.

Collections ended with 102%

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

Bob asked about tax sale fees, just wants to make sure the District is charging enough to cover costs.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

Fire Calls 14; EMS 9 for a total of 23. Fire Marshall – 8 residential CO; 1 commercial plan reviews.

Training Hours 505 hours.

Verizon is still a work in progress. There is now a new representative and will continue to work on it.

Duty Shifts began Memorial Day and so far, so good.

July 5th through October 8th the bridge will go out on Route 91. Westerly has indicated that they will add an engine and ladder during this time to make response time more efficient.

Chief asked Operating Committee Members to review the three resignation letters that were received. John Merkel agrees that the claims are groundless but nevertheless John would like a Subcommittee to work together to review the same. Ken Martin and Bill Balcezak will work with the Chief to investigate claims made in these resignation letters.

Bob Delaney thinks all Operating Committee Members should be able to review the letters and John Merkel agrees.

CARE/ARPA Act –

The Chief is working on the Town of Charlestown's letter and the Grange is still working on a letter to Charlestown to add to our letter.

Moderator's Comments –

The Westerly Town Manager sent a letter to the Moderator regarding use of the term "Harbor Master," requiring the Moderator to return a written acknowledgement of the policy. Chief Kenyon spoke with the Town Manager and confirmed that the policy will have no impact on our water rescue operations. Therefore, the Moderator as executed and returned a copy of letter to the Westerly Town Manager.

The Moderator received an inquiry from an insurance company about our bill for services rendered during a motor vehicle accident.. He explained our billing policy, to which the insurance company responded that they felt we were out of compliance with our own policy to annually inform our taxpayers of any fees we assess. Bob Delaney suggested that we do, in fact, notify our taxpayers of our fee structure because those fees are part of the budget provided to taxpayers each year. The Moderator will so inform the insurance company.

There was discussion regarding Department supplies purchases made by Department members using personal credit cards and then seeking reimbursement. District purchases need to be made with District credit card because of the benefits received. If credit card is over the limit, the District should make interim payments so card can be utilized at all times.

The Chief did indicate the reasons these purchases were made. After some discussion between the Chief and the Treasurer as to how to address the underlying issues, the Moderator suggested that that Keith and Bob can come up with a resolution to this matter off-line.

Moderator Succession Planning –

John has a candidate to fill the Operating Committee slot. He will post on website.

Auditors Selection –

Auditors have sent an Engagement Letter which needs to be signed and returned with a deposit in the amount of \$2,625.00 which is one-quarter of the total bill. John would like this to get done in the next couple days.

Budget Proposal – Is still being worked on.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Station 1.

Public Comments – NONE

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:21 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk