

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
September 13, 2022

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Station One, One Langworthy Road, Westerly, RI;

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, Bob Delaney, Chief Keith Kenyon, Bill Balcezak and Paul Gencarella. A quorum was present.

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

Robert Delaney 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 August 9, 2022 Operating Committee were filed with no changes.

FOTQG Report – Bill Myer gave the report on behalf of the FOTQG.

Things are going okay.

Rental Updates: Watching expenses carefully because it is expected to lose rentals during the shingling this fall. There is some concern about how long the project will take. Hoping it is done this year. Bob Delaney indicated the project should begin around September 16th, but there is no solid commitment thus far from the contractor.

Maintenance Contracts –

Verizon Transition – Tom Doyle is the contact person he is concerned regarding status. Chief indicated that he feels he is finally making head way with Verizon.

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

The financial statements were received. The district remains in excellent financial conditions. The billing for the contracting Districts will go out in October. The district is tracking fine against the budget. The reserves are good.

Request was made to the Tax Collector/Assessor to report the district's mill rate to the RI Department of Municipal Finance. The rates for both 2021 and 2022 are missing on the State website.

The Chief does not need a deposit for new vehicle yet.

A motion was made, seconded and discussed to approve the financial statements for the District.

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

The office prepared for the issuing of Tax Bills along with Quality Data. Bills were mailed out and place on the internet August 15, 2022. 3800 bills were mailed out to taxpayers.

Adjustments to some bills had to be made due to transfer of ownership.

The office continues to answer phone calls and emails in a timely manner.

Bob Delaney asked when delinquent notices would go out. Tax Assessor indicated she would be sending by November 1, 2022.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

Fire Calls 35; EMS 9 for a total of 44. Fire Marshall – 4 residential CO; 1 commercial plan reviews, 7 residential plan review. 429 total training hours.

Station 1 heating/ac unit – there is no date yet for replacement.

Verizon has another new representative who seems to be getting everything in order.

Cottrell Bridge is still on track for opening October 3, 2022.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all reports that were given.

CARE/ARPA ACT –

Chief states there are no changes with Town of Charlestown. Town of Westerly has not done anything as of yet.

Bob Delaney asked if we could find out the next meeting date for the Town Council of the Town of Westerly so we could get on the agenda. A letter will be sent to Mary Leblanc, Town Clerk regarding the same.

Bill Balcezak will accompany the Chief to the next Westerly Town Council Meeting and hope that any questions that the Town Council has regarding our request can be answered.

Moderator's Comments –

The Moderator position temporarily covered by Bob Delaney will be addressed again at the October Meeting.

Discussion regarding Retirement Program Plan –

Steve White, Administrator of the Dunn's Corners Fire District Retirement Program. He indicated that it is running as it should, however at the time it was set up with only one employee. Steve is asking to make changes that will work with the number of employees that the district now has.

Bob says the Operating Committee will take recommendations and speak with an ERISA attorney. Steve White offered to assist our solicitor with finding an ERISA attorney if needed. It should not be expensive.

Sub-Committee reviewing Department Officer Resignation:

Bill Balcezak indicated that the meeting was rescheduled and they will have information for the October meeting.

Bradford Annual Meeting –

Bob Delaney attended the meeting. They ran a good meeting. They are very appreciative of Dunn's Corners Service. They indicated that the service they receive from Dunn's Corners is excellent.

The contract renews again on September 21st for another year.

There was discussion regarding the fire truck, but they are waiting to see what comes of the grants we have applied for. Bradford will need to hold a special meeting to approve any sale of their truck.

Chief discussed Bradford's emergency number and the location of the Verizon box. It could be at Bradford School and it will need to be moved if school is demolished. Number is in service.

Dunn's Corners Fire District accounts with Washington Trust and Westerly Community Credit Union -

Bob Delaney indicates we need to update signers on accounts at Washington Trust Company and Westerly Community Credit Union.

Letters will be written and sent to both institutions with the information needed for accounts at each Bank/Credit Union.

Winnapaug Golf Course Zoning Change –

Chief indicates we have received nothing regarding this project.
The public present had no concerns to express regarding the proposed zoning change.
Bill asked if District equipment would have to change. The Chief stated it would not.

District Moderator –

Bob Delaney asked if anyone had any comments regarding the Moderator position.
Paul Gencarella states the Operating Committee needs leadership.
Rich Thomsen had no comment.
Bill Balcezak feels he does not have enough knowledge at this time to take the position.
Chief cannot serve as Moderator.

Bob Delaney recommended to continue for one more month as we are until a Moderator can be appointed.

A motion was made, seconded and discussed to elect a District Moderator in another month.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Station 1.

Old Business –

Bill Balcezak is still waiting on mailing list from Rosalind Choquette so he may continue with the tree trimming letter to be sent out. Tax Assessor indicated she is working on it as a priority. Bill will meet with her.

Public Comments –

Jim Angelo asked if the Operating Committee would in the future meet at Station 2. He was told we would likely meet at the Grange building as it was larger and would accommodate more attendees.

Jim Angelo asked about Subcommittee Reports and Privacy Act. Bill stated the reports will be given without names. Report will cover safety matters. Bill states it will be ready to discuss in Executive Session and report on at November's open meeting.

No Executive Committee meeting was held, the Chief asked that his review be put off until October.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk