**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

December 12, 2023

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Station 1, Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

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

Other Attendees: Attorney Michael Cozzolino, Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange, Deputy Chief Jeffrey Thomas;

Paul Gencarella, Moderator 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 – a Motion was made and seconded to approve and file the Minutes of November 14, 2023 Operating Committee Meeting.

FOTQG Report –  Ann Bettinger gave her report regarding rental updates; maintenance contracts, maintenance items.

Ann reported that the Holiday singalong was a success and thanked everyone for their support.

Rich Thomsen was handling lighting if needed.

Siding project and chimney status – the project was moving forward. Rich made contractor aware of the back shingling of the building. He would see what they can do. Rich has ideas of his own to fix.

Status of Lighting replacement – Chief states all lights will be back up and in working condition.

Rich states that bricks are being worked on.

Training or maintenance – there is nothing scheduled until March. Conex box is to be moved, that is it.

Internet transition – Chief is working on it.

Side steps/East side – Bob Delaney states to have it all done at the same time. Paul Gencarella agreed. The screens need to be replaced and all windows need to be washed.

Chair lift – Chief waiting for one more quote back

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

The expenses are tracking well against the budget and the rates are good.

Money from contracting Districts is coming in.

$17,000.00 worth of improvements to be made at both stations to improve response time and give the volunteers better accommodations. Items the District should cover the cost of include – strip and wax the floor $700; six cabinets to create a wall $3600; locks for bunk rooms, dining table, chairs and five desks $6,700.00. The Operating Committee indicated support and funding, this will be approved under old business at next month’s meeting.

Tax Assessors/Collector’s Report – Rosalind Choquette, Tax Assessor

During the month of November the office continued to collect taxes and answer phone calls and emails.

The office contacted Attorney Glenn Carlson regarding proposed upcoming tax sale and expenses that could be incurred.

Bob Delaney suggested sending Attorney Carlson’s report to Attorney Andreosi to see what his charges would be.

The results in collection result in a 93% collection rate.

Chief’s Report – for the month of November there were 24 fire calls and 5 EMS calls for a total of 29. For the month of November there were 589 training hours.

New Car 1 is in service.

Red Cross Bin was dropped off at Station 1 and has been uneventful thus far.

Finalizing the status of the stair chair.

Assist Fire Marshall Manni maybe stepping down.

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

Winnapaug Residence Development – Ed and Nina Rossomando members of Keep Westerly Green addressed the Committee regarding Winnapaug Development. They indicated that there will be at least 2300 units (1 and 2 bedroom units) built all over golf course. The Town of Westerly is very interested in affordable housing. This group has stopped development before, but they are concerned about the impact and demands on the fire department as well as water, sewer, etc.

They are asking for help from the Department to speak out at any town meetings that we could attend. Paul states we do not want to miss any dates or opportunities to attend any meetings. He indicated he will attend any meetings needed.

Bob asked about sewer – they stated there is no sewer there.

They will keep us updated on any information and further concerns.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Old Business –  The Moderator executed the letter for the truck transfer.

Deputy Chief Jeff Thomas states that we are working on a back-up for the Department Representative sitting on the Operating Committee. Chief is reviewing to see how this would work.

Public Comments - Paul asked about Dan, we think he has COVID. Ernie Rathbun asked about lighting.

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to go into Executive Session at 7:28 PM for purpose of year end incentive bonuses.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to seal the minutes and go back into Public Session at 8:00 PM.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to award year end incentive bonuses in accordance with the consensus of the Operating Committee as discussed in Executive Session for officers and employees.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:00 PM*

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk