**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

May 14, 2024

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Station 1, Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members – Robert Delaney, Ken Martin, Rich Thomsen, Dan Roy, and Paul Gencarella, A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Friends of the Quonocontaug Grange

Attorney Michael Cozzolino

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 April 9, 2024 Operating Committee Meeting.

FOTQG Report –  Ann Bettinger gave the monthly report.

Rentals – They continue to manage expenses closely and maintaining active rental schedule

Status of work being done:

Camera replacement – piece has just arrived per Chief.

Front ramp, side steps – will be done soon

Crushed asphalt area – add a berm

Chair Lift status – 6 to 8 weeks out but before July 27th would be great.

Front Door replacement – Ann asked Chief with regard to ARPA money

Long term plan items – hot water heater and lower level auxiliary heater are suggestions

Bob Delaney stated that the first Saturday in June – 8:30 – 12:30 landscaping at the Grange will begin.

Ann will forward a letter to the Chief regarding the water issue.

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

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

Bob indicated that the principal balance on the engine loan is $173,000.00 +/-, there are approximately nine years remaining. Bob suggested to pay down on loan an extra $22,000.00. Dan Roy asked about the loans and Bob explained to him in detail.

There are numerous CDs earning 5% interest.

*A motion was made and seconded to paydown existing truck loan in the amount of $22,000.00.*

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report.*

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

Rosalind reported that the office made a last rebilling for the current fiscal year at the end of April and monies have been steadily flowing in.

The committee was given copies of the properties that would be sent to tax sale which comprise 39 properties.

The tax collection rate to date is 99.73%.

Chief’s Report – for the month of April there were 21 fire calls and 29 EMS calls. There was a total of 380 training hours.

Engine 4 had been overheating but that issue has been fixed.

Engine 6 was out for repair –

Station 2 had some work done on the boiler.

Chairlift has been delayed

There has been more work done on the Humvee project.

All Westerly ARPA fund purchases have been made - $32,000.00 total to be received from Town of Westerly.

All Charlestown ARPA fund purchases have been made, that money had been given to District up front.

Security System at both stations – the computer had died. All systems have to be updated. Getting quotes now.

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

Annual Meeting – Ann and Mary have sent emails. Ann will send to Deputy Chief Thomas and Mary Rathbun tonight to post on the website and run in the Westerly Sun for one day.

Resolution Items are being worked on now:

Minisplits – still waiting on

Landscape – to beginning June 1, 2024

New Engine – money set aside in CDs.

Fiscal Budget (5/31/24/ - 5/31/25) – Chief covered the different items including apparatus, training fire fighter position.

Insurance and Dispatching invoices.

Dan Roy asked what Line 611 was with regard to taxes – Bob Delaney explained that is social security, FICA, etc.

Website – all changes have been made by Deputy Chief Thomas.

Tax Lien Sale Bob Delaney asked about date of sale.

Ros states that Operating Committee she believes is not happy with her not having a sale.

Bob states taxpayers that owe should pay for notifications, etc.

Dan Roy asked should Ros really be beaten up for a tax sale that did not happen.

Ros indicates that work will be in November for tax sale the end February, 2025 or beginning or March 2025.

Personnel Needs: Current Fire Marshall is all set. Assistant is helpful doing work at night.

Office needs – Mary Rathbun thinks there could be more help.

Firefighter/EMT position – need manpower

Maintenance – Janitor – what is the status – Chief states looking at hiring out for lawn care

Dan asked who prepares the five-year plan. Bob states it is the Operating Committee who discusses the needs of the department.

Dan asked if we have time now to recruit firefighters before Annual Meeting. He fully supports the Chief and whatever the Chief is requesting. Chief states being prepared costs money.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Old Business – NONE

Public Comments - Bob Peacock addressed that as a Fire Department and following rules, the minutes need to be posted in a more timely fashion.

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:22 PM*

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk