**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

May 13, 2025

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM at Station One, Dunns Corners, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members – Chief Keith Kenyon, Rich Thomsen, Dan Roy, Ken Martin, and Paul Gencarella, A quorum was present.  Bob Delaney arrived later but was in time to participate.

Other Attendees: Attorney Michael Cozzolino

 Office Manager Mary Rathbun

 Tax Collector/Assessor Rosalind Choquette

 Deputy Chief, Jeffrey Thomas

 Friends of Quonochontaug Grange

Paul Gencarella, Moderator coordinated the meeting.

Actions of OC (all votes unanimous unless otherwise noted).

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting started at 5:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Motion was made and seconded to approve and file the Minutes of the April 8, 2025 Operating Committee Meeting.

FOTQG Report – Ann Bettinger reported as follows:

Updates

* Continue to manage expenses closely
* Maintaining active rental schedule
* Plan for May/June work party to include attic cleanup

Chief states – no training scheduled at this time.

Long Term plan –

Attic window replacement was completed

Front door hardware completed, lower level doors to be completed this month.

Roy Jacobsen, FOTQG is coordinating with the contractor for completion this month

Discussion regarding touch a truck event; safety event; fundraiser for the Karl Kenyon Scholarship; Charlestown 250 year anniversary event –

Upcoming budget – anything needed from FOTQG Board

Clerk asked for B.Delaney when the stairwell from Kitchen to the Stage area planned to be worked on – Ann states looking at next year or two.

Clerk asked for B.Delaney when is the upgrade to the stage area planned. Ann indicated that needed to be looked at for up coming year. They will do some fundraisers and let us know what will be needed.

Annual landscape maintenance at the Grange, Rich states is posted on the website.

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

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

Hopeful that there are no more truck expenses at this time.

There is savings for new tanker.

One CD was moved for a better rate.

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

Tax Office sent out one more delinquent notice at the end of April for monies due before the end of the fiscal 2024/2025 tax year.

Collection percentage to 102.76%.

The office has begun preparation for the upcoming 2025/2026 tax season.

Chief’s Report – Chief stated as follows:

For the month of April Fire 20 and EMS calls 8 for a total of 28.

Training Hours – 242 hours

There has been further discussions with Bradford Fire District Moderator regarding Fieldstone Way cisterns. He is doing research with the Town of Westerly.

Waiting on information gathered from Town of Westerly to see if anything applies to Fallon Trail cisterns.

Tower 5 is back from repair and in service.

Weekend duty shifts will begin May 24th and continue until Labor Day.

Covers for cisterns at Station 2 are scheduled to be done by the end of the week.

New Ipads have been received to update older equipment in the apparatus.

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

Budget Review 2025/2026 –

Renee Davis, Shelter Harbor Treasurer asked about budget changes

Bob Delaney indicated trying to stay within a 3% increase

Chief states overall need to wait until end of May for pricing

Framing and installing bathroom at Station 2 would like to finish.

Next budget discussion will be held at June’s meeting on the 3rd.

Audit Contract: Every three years the state requires to go out for bids.

Mary Rathbun and Rosalind Choquette both agree that previous auditor was very good to work with.

When packets are received they must be reviewed by three individuals and recommendations will then be sent to the state.

Dan Roy, Paul Gencarella and Rich Thomsen have agreed to help score the packets.

Tarriff Costs: Bob Delaney states cost on new purchases and repairs of fire apparatus will be affected. State representative should waive the tariff fees for fire departments because they are government entities.

Moderator suggested following what the RI Fire Chiefs Association is doing. Bob is proposing a letter be sent to exempt fire department of tariffs. Chief will send letter to RI Federal Government President of RI Fire Chiefs Association.

Nominating Committee:

Ann Bettinger and Mary Rathbun are members of this committee.

Still working on

Nominations should be in approximately around June 17th

Website: is done until July.

By-Laws: Suggested changes:

Bob Delaney asked do we have to have five places to post a meeting – can we change to three public places

Rosalind will bring wording for next month’s meeting regarding processing collection of taxes –

By Laws were last addressed in 2008

*Motion was made and seconded to changes June’s Operating Committee meeting to June 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM*

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:30 PM at the Station One.

Old Business –

Dan Roy asked about residency at Station 2. Chief indicates it is being worked on.

Public Comments - NONE

*Motion was made, second and approved to adjourn meeting at approximately 6:25 PM.*

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk