

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
October 11, 2022

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM at 5662 Post Road, Charlestown, RI;

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, Bob Delaney, Chief Keith Kenyon, Bill Balcezak and Ken Martin. 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 September 13, 2022 Operating Committee were filed with no changes.

FOTQG Report – Ann Bettinger gave the report on behalf of the FOTQG. Roy Jacobson was also in attendance.

Things are going okay.

Rental prices are on the grange website. Fees for kitchen use are separate.

Shingle Project – Ann asked about the status. Bob Delaney states that may be switching to a new vendor. The old vendor is not starting as originally scheduled. Materials are very expensive. Looking for new prices. We need to consider alternates to the proposed replacement siding. I believe Chief is getting samples but at the current pricing of the proposed siding the OC cannot consider spending this type of money. Ann would like to look at samples and work with the District to keep the historical look to the building.

Maintenance Contracts – Chief has quotes for internet and is waiting for phone quote. Tom is still the point person when the Verizon transition will take place.

Maintenance Items - Ann indicated that drainage is not working well. Chief met with DOT and they are aware of the drainage issue. Chief is waiting for answers from DOT. Michael will continue to grade the lot.

Bob Delaney states upgrading of landscaping will begin shortly. Manager will consult with the landscaping ideas.

Chair Lift – Chief states it will have to be a single chair. Town of Charlestown is ready to provide awarded ARPA funds for the project. Bill Meyer has bid. Ann will get it to the Chief.

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

The audit is completed. There were no major findings. He is waiting to have a telephone discussion with auditors.

The financials are looking good against the budget.

Treasurer would like to paydown engine loan in the amount of \$45,000.00. The balance is \$280,000.00, more or less.

A motion was made, seconded, and discussed to paydown on the principal of Engine 4 loan in the amount of \$45,000.00.

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:

For the month of September, the office resent tax bills that had been returned due to residents moving or incorrect address.

The office spent most of the month processing payments that were received.

The office will be closed November 13th through the 21st as the Assessor's will be away.

Bob Delaney asked if the Assessor could put together a percentage of payments made via credit card. The Assessor will work on that list.

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

Fire Calls 31; EMS 10 for a total of 41. Fire Marshall is away will report next month. 577 total training hours.

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

Cottrell Bridge opened on time.

DOT at Station 1 because of rain water and potholes. Looks like there is a covered drain that they need to correct.

Bob asked about Humvi hardtop. Chief reports it is still on back order.

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

CARE/ARPA ACT –

Westerly meeting is scheduled for October 17th. The Chief and Bill Balcezak will attend the meeting. Jim Angelo does not think they are going to take any action.

Moderator's Comments –

Bob Delaney asked who was interested in the position. There is still no interest from anyone on the committee at this time. Mary Rathbun had sent a letter a couple of weeks ago to the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office regarding if there is a conflict with the Treasurer acting as Moderator.

The decision to stay running as we are until next meeting.

Sub-Committee reviewing Department Officer Resignation:

Ken still needs to have two more meetings with officers. Trying to schedule. Ken has been out with COVID. One interview has been harder to schedule. Maybe wrapped up in next couple weeks with a summary and ready for presentation at November's meeting.

Contracting District Roads:

Bob Delaney asked if there were any parts that could begin being worked on. Bill stated East Beach will do 100% of their roads beginning November 11, 2022.

Bob suggested to work on Shady Harbor next, and Bill indicated he will work on this.

Rich Thomsen spoke with the new Shady Harbor Moderator and they will distribute a letter to all the homeowners letting them know of the road work to be done.

Ten Year Extension of the Service Contract Between Weekapaug and Misquamicut Fire District

Discussion was held regarding a possible meeting with Misquamicut Board of Officers to discuss some level of revenue sharing relative to the service from DCFD into the Weekapaug District which was once a DCFD contracting District but moved to Misquamicut for better pricing for fire service years ago. Misquamicut is currently paid \$85,000.00 by Weekapaug for service.

A vote of 3 to 2 against meeting with the Misquamicut Board ended the discussion.

Resolutions:

Fencing: a quote came in over the weekend at about \$2,000.00. Bob will review with Dunn's Corners Market.

Kitchen: Chief has been cleaning out. He has found there are rebates for certain items.

No other updates on resolutions

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Grange.

Old Business –

NONE

Public Comments –

Jim Angelo don't shoot the messenger. Charter Revision he states can be changed by the Secretary of State. Operating Committee stated two years ago not going to change the charter. He also states that the Chief cannot be on the Operating Committee. He also states public can come by invitation to Executive Session. Attorney Cozzolino indicated that it is frowned upon. Personal matters can come up but it is presumed private, but now it would be made public.

No Executive Committee meeting was held.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk