

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting April 14, 2014

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Monday April 14, 2014 at 6:00 PM, in Fire Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Matt Thomsen, Tom Algiere, Ken Martin, Chief Mike Frink and Bob Delaney. Committee member Jon Schreier was excused.

Additional attendees: From the Boy Scouts of America Troop 112 Bruce Kenyon, Jim Montagu and Bob Powers; from the Bradford Fire District, Moderator Frank Manfredi.

Actions of the OC (all votes unanimous unless otherwise noted):

Agenda Items

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting.*

Next Operating Committee Meeting - The next regular meeting of the Operating Committee is scheduled for 6:00 PM May 12, 2014 at Station 1.

Charter Renewal Troop 112 – The meeting was in regards to the renewal certification form for District's sponsorship of the Troops charter. The Chief discussed with the Troop's representatives concerns raised by the District's solicitor in regards to the administrative responsibilities for the actions of the Troops activities that according to the document would fall onto the District.

The Moderator stated he would work with the Troop through the technical matters to help resolve the administrative issues. The committee stated that the Troop could still use the Grange the facility until the matter is resolved and is very supportive of Troop 112 and its activities.

Bradford Fire District Contract – The Dunn's Corners Moderator informed those in attendance that the District's Attorney is drafting the multi year fire protection contract.

The Committee stated it is working to have the contract completed by the end of April so the BFD can present it to its taxpayers in May.

Frank Manfredi BFD Moderator updated the committee on the status of the disputed equipment and collection activities to date. The BFD will maintain insurance on the equipment until the matter is resolved.

Chief Frink talked to the Westerly Town Manager about land the own has in Bradford for a substation and discussed hydrant costs. Chief asked for the \$2,400.00 fee to be abated for the hydrants because of tax base reduced by open space purchases. Chief discussed relief for the BFD's dispatch fees over a series of five years. The Committee in an effort to be fair to BFD taxpayers discussed covering \$2,000 of the BFD dispatch fee for the upcoming year.

A motion was made seconded and so voted for the Dunn's Corners Fire District to cover \$2,000 of the Bradford Fire District's dispatch fee for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Chief reviewed impacts of the multi year agreement on the BFD fiscal budget.

The Committee discussed with BFD Moderator Manfredi the potential sale of the Woody Hill Property.

Bradford Printing has been contacted about the outstanding invoice of \$12,000 in which the owners offered \$500.00 a month. The Committee forwarded the matter to the District's Attorney. The Chief will follow up on options with the State Fire Marshall.

Tax Collector's Report – Bradford paid their second installment and the overall DCFD collection rate is 96.5%.

Treasurer's Report – The Committee reviewed and accepted the financial statements through March 21, 2014. The Treasurer suggested that in the 2014-2015 budget that the district pick up \$2,000.00 of BFD's dispatch service cost.

The Treasurer inquired about the small claims case against the district regarding a disputed tax sale. The Moderator will update the Committee at the next meeting.

Chief's Report

The Chief is expecting an insurance adjuster to be coming into the District to rerate the District's ISO ratings.

Work is beginning on the 2014-2015 District budget. An issue has come up regarding the hard-wired alarm system. The Chief will be looking into a wireless radio box system. The overall cost of the project to the district to convert would be \$60,000. Typically businesses' will have 3 years to convert approximate cost of \$1,300.00.

Westerly Amateur Radio Team provided a thank you note for the use of the Station.

Chief inspected an almost identical truck to the new Engine 4 and was very impressed the job done the District's truck committee.

The Chief noted that the District has the lowest tax rate in the state.

Legislative report on Open Meetings for department notice posting is working its way through the legislative process.

Discussed H7944 Budget Commission for Fire Districts.

Department open house will be May 18th the lead taken by Jeff Thomas.

K Martin noted that a state grant was pending on funds for recruitment and retention

Four new department members joined the department in March.

The Department responded to 60 calls 18EMS 42 Fire for the month of March.

Shady and Shelter Harbor contracts – DCFD provided requested information to the contracting districts and is still waiting for requested info from same.

Public Comments

Public comments – James Angelo referenced an article stating the Westerly Ambulance Corps is getting out of the rescue business and will just be providing transport service. He inquired as to how this will affect DCFD. The Chief stated that currently DCFD does extractions and works with the Westerly Ambulance Corps. There was additional discussion held on cost sharing versus mutual aid.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve White

District Clerk