

# **Dunn's Corners Fire District**

1 Langworthy Rd  
Westerly, RI 02891

## **Minutes Operating Committee Meeting May 12, 2014**

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Monday May 12, 2014 at 6:00 PM, in Fire Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of OC members Matt Thomsen, Tom Algieri, Ken Martin, Chief Mike Frink, Bob Delaney, and Jon Schreier.

Additional attendees: From the Bradford Fire District, Moderator Frank Manfredi; from the Shady Harbor Fire District Ted See and Stan Hollis; from the Shelter Harbor Fire District Tom Lloyd; and District Clerk Steve White.

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 April 14, 2014 meeting.*

**Next Operating Committee Meeting** - The next regular meeting of the Operating Committee is scheduled for 6:30 PM May 19, 2014 at Station 1.

**Contracting District Contracts Shady and Shelter Harbor** – Ted See representing Shady Harbor discussed the District's view of the tax rates and the splits between Westerly and Charlestown and used them to determine a proposed modified rate for a potential contract renewal. Mr. See provided a written copy of his analysis to support what he believes should be the new base rate in a renewed contract.

DCFD Treasurer Bob Delaney – Informed the committee that in his opinion certain administrative expenses that do not apply to the cost of providing fire protection services to the contracting districts should be taken into consideration when determining the base rate for those districts.

**Bradford Fire District Contract** – Moderator Thomsen informed the committee that the district solicitor has not finished the long-term lease and contract. Moderator Manfredi stated that he would need 3 weeks to advertise a meeting based on the BFD charter to approve the contracts.

Discussion ensued in regards to the direction of future DCFD representation.

Discussion ensued about the potential of a future sub-station in Bradford.

Chief Frink discussed the dispatch service fee. He informed the committee that the BFD would have to pay the standard fee while it remained a separate district. The Southern League stated it did not want to set a precedent. The Chief had offered a four-year wind down plan as an alternative. The committee thanked the Chief for the amount of time and effort he has spent working on this matter.

The DCFD still plans on providing a \$2000.00 credit to BFD to help offset this expense.

It appears BFD will be getting relief of \$2400.00 from the Town on the hydrant fees.

**Bradford Industrial Park** – The committee discussed the lack of payment received for providing services to an entity that is not part of the DCFD or Bradford Fire district, or district which DCFD provides mutual aid. The Chief has discussed the matter with the State Fire Marshall who stated the district was under no obligation to provide service to a non-contracted entity and/or an entity that is outside the district or outside a district covered by mutual aid.

*A motion was made seconded and so voted authorize the Chief take whatever action is necessary to inform the State Fire Marshall that DCFD will no longer be providing fire protection services to Bradford Industrial Park.*

**Treasurer's Report** – The Tax collection rate for current year is 97.2%. The Committee reviewed and accepted the financial statements through April, 2014.

The Treasurer discussed putting through year-end accrual entries to resolve an outstanding CPA audit item.

The only line item that has a material variance is the fuel expense for Station 1. The Treasurer suggested topping the tanks off prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 12 – The Moderator informed the Committee that the proper insurance certificates were received and in proper order and asked the Committee to ratify the District's sponsorship of Troop 112.

*A motion was made seconded and so voted to ratify the Moderator's signature to approve the District's sponsorship of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 112.*

### **Chief's Report**

The Chief stated the cisterns have been checked for fill level for an upcoming insurance inspection.

The Chief does not expect any down grades rating in the ISO ratings.

The Chief discussed the 2014-2015-draft budget, which included considerations for the deputy chiefs, and the discussion of per diem staff or custodian services staff which would include volunteer fire fighting service. Additionally, he discussed the cost impacts of repaying the debt of the new engine. The draft included an increase of 3% for salaried staff. There was discussion on upgrading from hardwired alarm system to a radio box system estimated cost \$70,000, which over the next several years would save the district money.

The Department open house will be May 18<sup>th</sup> the lead taken by Jeff Thomas.

The Department responded to 58 calls 25-EMS 33-Fire for the month of April.

The Chief was asked about the condition of the inflatable boat, which he stated, needs to be inspected. The Chief is researching getting a pond boat from the Federal Excess Property Program to support coverage of the river running through the Bradford Fire District.

### **Public Comments**

Public comments – James Angelo discussed some of the pit falls of volunteers who anticipate conversion to paid status and cases filed with the Human Rights Commission. Additionally, he reviewed an article about the Westerly Ambulance Corp and what its plans are for the decommissioning of its excess equipment and the future impact that may have on mutual aid support and agreements with other districts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

*Steve White*  
District Clerk