

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting March 10, 2015

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

Attendees were comprised of the OC members Moderator Matt Thomsen, Tom Algiere, Jon Schreier, Ken Martin, Chief Mike Frink and Treasurer Bob Delaney. A quorum was present.

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

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting started at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Previous meeting minutes – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the February 10, 2015 Operating Committee meeting minutes.*

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Financial Statements – Due to the transition to the new bookkeeper the February financials were not available for the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer reported that the tax sale was proceeding on schedule. He informed the Committee that the \$55,000 approved for an additional principal payment on the Station 2 loan would be applied.

The District's auditors received the attorney's letter and that the final audit copy has been received. Copies were made for both the Westerly and Charlestown town councils.

The District was informed by its collection agency Dawson Group that it was unlikely that the District will recover any monies owed by Bradford Industrial Park. The District has requested a formal letter stating that the account is uncollectable for its records.

Chief's Report – The Chief reported that the District has not heard back from the Town of Charlestown regarding the District's request that the town look into purchasing or facilitating the wetlands owned by the District for open space. The Chief will follow up.

The Chief informed the Committee that there would be three hearings on March 11, 2015 at the State House on bills that could impact the District.

- H5343 Fire District Fiscal Stability – The bill in response to problems with Albion and Coventry would not allow for any funding approval outside of an annual meeting. It would also cap budget increases to 4% which if enacted would limit DCFD to approximately \$35,000 next fiscal year. It was noted that the additional reporting requirements are redundant with existing requirements.
- H5344 – Would require that at least 2% of register voters be required to have a quorum for a fire district financial meeting.
- H5345 Fire District Meeting Notice – Would require that meeting notices be posted 14 and 7 days in advance of a meeting.

Additionally, the governor is proposing consolidating all fire inspection and plan review into the State Building Department.

Engine 2 was sold to the Baltic Ohio Fire Department for \$195,000. The DCFD will be responsible for getting the turret fixed and the having the vehicle inspected. The Chief noted there were several interested parties.

Station 1 had a pipe freeze on the second floor. The damage was primarily to sheet rock, wallpaper and ceiling tiles. Insurance will cover the repairs.

The Chief reported that while he was on vacation Firefighter and Facilities Manager Chris Wells was a big help and that he finishing up his fire marshal's classes.

The Chief discussed with the town the possibility of adding signage and was informed the Department could add a non-electric 18 square foot freestanding sign to the Station 1 grounds. If the sign were to be placed on the building it could be up to 1 square foot for every linear foot on the wall to be used. Any other configuration would require a variance and planning department involvement.

The Board of Engineers and the chief are working on the 2015-2016 fiscal budget.

The Department responded to 59 calls during the month of February; 27 MVA, 32 fire and performed a combined 11 inspection and plan reviews.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the sale of Engine 2 to Baltic Ohio Fire and Rescue for \$195,000 less expenses, with the vote to occur at the April meeting.

Bradford Industrial Park (BIP) – The Moderator informed the committee that he had been in contact with the District's attorney in this matter John Payne who had researched and reviewed the appropriate districts charters and stated that BIP has never been part of any district. Attorney Payne stated that the District would have a draft of a petition for a lawsuit within one to two week. The DCFD will pre-notify the Westerly Ambulance Corp (WAC) of the impending legal action.

Public Comments – Taxpayer James Angelo and the Committee stated that BDA’s charter dissolved when they folded; that the property was automatically split between the Bradford Fire District and Ashaway Fire District; that this should be so coded in these Districts; that these fire districts were probably never notified and that the boundaries have not changed

Contracting Districts – Committee Member T. Algieri inquired about the contractual status of the Contracting Districts. It was noted that the Shady Harbor Fire District was on a one-year contract and that there has been no change to the contractual status of both the Shelter Harbor and Central Beach Fire Districts.

Executive Session – Chief Frink requested the Committee go into Executive Session to discuss matters related to District Legal representation status.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

For Steve White District Clerk

Ken Martin District Clerk pro-tem