

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting September 8, 2015

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendees: District Clerk-Steve White, Solicitor-Michael Cozzolino and Ted See of the Shady Harbor Fire District.

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

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting started at 5:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the July 14, 2015 Operating Committee meeting minutes.*

Annual Meeting Minutes – The Committee accepted the Draft Annual Meeting Minutes as published.

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday October 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Selection of Moderator – *A motion made, seconded and so voted to appoint Matt Thomsen as Moderator for the 2015-2016 year.*

Appointment of Treasurer, Tax Collector and District Clerk – *A motion made, seconded and so voted to appoint Bob Delaney as Treasurer, Diane Nardone as Tax Collector and Steve White as District Clerk for the 2015-2016 year.*

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer reviewed the financial statements through August 2015 which showed on a cash basis year to date revenue of \$60,768 and cash and equivalent assets on hand of \$702,657. The Treasurer noted that things are going well, the tax bills have been sent out and he will be setting a date with the district's auditors for the next district financial statement audit.

There was discussion on the Grange revenue figure being low given the apparent high level of usage. The Treasurer will follow up with the Grange manager on the matter.

The Treasurer noted that the previous year's taxes due was a very manageable \$24,000.

District Solicitor – The Moderator introduced the district's new solicitor attorney Michael Cozzolino. Attorney Cozzolini has over 30 years experience much of it working with municipalities. He is licensed in both Rhode Island and Connecticut and resides within the district.

Shady Harbor Fire District Contract – The Moderator discussed the current negotiations for a new multi-year contract with the committee and Ted See. The basic tenants of the contract revolve around the committee's intent to charge the contracting districts an amount equivalent to the mil rate paid by the district's taxpayers discounted for collections and non fire protection related administrative expenses. Mr. See indicated that his district would be looking for an annual cap on increases and an assurance that other contracting districts would not receive more favorable terms.

Shelter Harbor Fire District Contract – The Moderator reviewed with the committee his initial conversations with Tom Lloyd of the Shelter Harbor Fire District on a 6 year agreement to provide fire protection services based on the same criteria as the Shady Harbor agreement with a discount of \$3500 per year over a three period in consideration for the district being released from the terms of the current contract.

Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District – The Moderator discussed that the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District contract will be coming up for negotiation.

Bradford Fire District – The committee authorized members Tom Algiere and Bob Delaney to offer the Bradford Fire District at their annual meeting a multi-year contract with same terms as the Shady Harbor contract with the stipulation of the continued lease arrangement for the use of the Bradford Fire Truck.

Weekapaug Fire District – Committee member Tom Algiere requested that the committee send a letter to the Weekapaug Fire District to determine if they had any interest in entertaining a bid for the Dunn's Corners Fire District to provide fire protection services after their current contract expires.

Chief's Report – The Chief gave a quick update on the September 4th wind storm which had kept the department busy dealing with multiple instances of downed trees and power lines. He noted that the Ashaway Fire Department was a big help especially supporting the recovery effort in Shelter Harbor.

The Chief informed the committee that he should know by the end of month if the district received the grant for repeater site and patch between VHF & 800 radios. He stated that the pond boat has been on ordered; the new bay doors for Station 1 will be installed by the end of

month; and he is finalizing the radio box upgrade plans and will be placing a PO for the equipment by the end of September.

Additionally, the Chief informed the committee that Rachel Schilke will be coming on as an intern this year and be involved with many aspects of the fire service and that he attended the OMA & APRA class and is state certified.

The department responded to 94 calls in July, 60 medical and 34 fire. During the month the fire marshals conducted 3 plan reviews, as well as 22 residential and 2 commercial site inspections.

The department responded to 83 calls in August, 38 medical and 45 fire. During the month the fire marshals conducted 6 plan reviews, as well as 26 residential and 6 commercial site inspections.

Bradford Industrial Park – The Moderator provided the committee with a copy of the petition drafted by Patrick McKinney, Esquire on behalf of the district looking for relief from being the first department on call to respond to BIP fire alarm situations. The committee will discuss the petition in executive session at a future meeting.

Charter Review Committee – The moderator noted to date only one person had volunteered to be part of the Charter Review Committee and that he is going to look into the Sun possibly publicizing that the operating committee was looking for volunteers from the community to be part of the ad hoc Charter Review committee. He would also look into putting the information out on the district's website. There was conversation about publicizing the request along with the department's open house.

Grange Update – Treasurer Delaney requested that the committee receive regular updates on the activities of Friends of the Grange. He stated that he attended the open house and by his estimates a couple hundred people may have shown up for the event.

The Chief stated that he was going to look into splitting the Grange's electric service from that of station 2 due to the higher costs attributed to the higher utilization of the facility.

Correspondence – None

Public Comments – Taxpayer James Angelo informed the committee that he has been inquiring with the town as to why RV's in trailer parks are not paying town taxes but are receiving town services as if they were taxpayers. He will continue to keep the committee informed as to his efforts.

Executive Session – At 6:30 pm the committee went into executive session to review matters pertaining to pending litigation and personnel. The committee concluded the executive session at 6:45PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Steve White District Clerk