

Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd
Westerly, RI 02891

Minutes Operating Committee Meeting May 10, 2016

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendees: District Clerk-Steve White and Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange Chair Ron Meneo.

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.

Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange (FOTQG) – Ron Meneo representing FOTQG reported that the group held a “Pot Luck Dinner” event at the facility which was attended by 60 people. He went on record thanking Moderator M. Thomsen for his quick response to recent emails regarding the facility’s lease and grant request. Additionally, he reported to the Committee that there was a septic issue that was in the process of being resolved and that the donated tree had been removed from the grounds.

The Moderator and Committee thanked Mr. Meneo and the FOTQG for their efforts on behalf of the Grange.

Previous Meeting Minutes – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting.*

Next OC Meeting – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday May 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer informed the committee that the financial statements appear to be in good order and tracking well to budget. He stated that the tax collection receivable was unchanged from the previous month. This was the result of past due tax payments received but not posted in time to be included with current financial statements. He also stated that fuel expenses have been less than anticipated.

He noted that we have still not received any payment from the Shelter Harbor Fire District and 50% of the invoiced amount based on a new contract estimate has been received from the Shady Harbor Fire District. This has contributed to a negative cash flow year to date. The Districts' are withholding payment until the formal contracts have been executed.

The Treasurer informed the Committee that the District was going out to bid for its annual audit. This is the first year that the District will be required to follow RI State guidelines which will include advertising requests for proposals in the Westerly Sun and Providence Journal.

Chief's Report – The Chief informed the Committee that Tower 5 is being worked on and is out of service in order to repair a sensor in the lift system. He expects the repair costs to be at a minimum in the \$10,000 range.

He provided the committee with following update;

The RI Fire Chiefs' Association is watching 20 RI House and Senate Bills. Both the House and Senate have new bills that allow cities and towns to regionalize dispatch centers.

The pond boat is complete, christened and in service.

The Chief held a radio box alarm system upgrade meeting on April 26th to review the project with local businesses. Representatives from three businesses attended the meeting. He noted that he is working with Solicitor Cozzolino to formalize a contract for businesses that choose the four year repayment plan. The District will be sending out certified letters to the effected businesses to inform them that they will need to switch to wireless as well as provide them with their options to facilitate the process. He also informed the Committee that the District will need to add filters to its antennas at dispatch.

Dave Parr has been contacted about the AFG grant for SCBA gear replacement. The grant has gone to the review process but the score is currently unknown.

Greython Construction has donated a house at 11 Clifford Dr and Carl Johnson has donated two houses to be used for training purposes prior to their demolition. The Chief was thankful to both companies for their support of the District's training program.

Bradford Industrial Park has had its power cut off by National Grid and is now powering its alarm systems and emergency equipment from a feed from one of the tenants.

The department responded to 61 calls in April, 35 medical, 26 fire; the fire marshals conducted 2 inspections and plan reviews for the month, 6 plan review(s), and 19 residential and 1 commercial inspection(s).

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Treasurer's and Chief's reports.

Draft Budget 2016-2017 – The Chief presented an itemized Draft Budget developed with Board of Engineers for 2016-2017 fiscal year of \$929,878 a reduction of \$13,365 from the previous year’s budget. The Chief looking for guidance from the operating Committee did not include any funds to support the Grange Community Building in the draft budget. The Committee made \$3,000 for fuel and \$8,000 for general maintenance to support the facility. There were several other nominal suggestions to the Chief who will revise the draft budget for the next Committee meeting.

The Chief provided a list of capital purchase items for fiscal year 2016-2017 totaling \$79,000.00 which included;

- A new Car 1
- Painting Station 1
- Installing a Tank-less Water Heater at Station 2
- Security Upgrades to both Station 1 and Station 2

The Chief is looking to pay for the items from \$130,779 in funds still available from the sale of Engine 4 during the previous fiscal year of which \$57,000 was allocated to the General Fund and \$73,779 available from 2015-2016 capital projects brought in under budget.

The Chief also provided the Committee with a capital outlay schedule through 2024.

Contracting District Contracts – The Moderator provided the Committee with the draft contracts for the Shady Harbor and Shelter Harbor Fire Districts. He informed the Committee that he has been in contact with representatives of the two districts in regards to the draft contracts and that the districts were looking to include five items to the contract of which the Operating Committee was only amenable to two of the items. The Moderator stated he would inform the representatives of the two districts as to the Committee’s position.

The Moderator provided a draft contract for the Bradford Fire District which included a provision for the continued lease of that District’s apparatus and equipment. It was noted that any future consideration of a merger of the two districts would be contingent on the Bradford Fire District apparatus and equipment going to the merged entity. Additionally, the tax payers of both district’s would need to approve any merger. The Chief stated that a study as to whether or not a sub-station would need to be built in the Bradford area in order to maintain the Dunn’s Corners Fire District ISO rating should done prior to any potential merger discussions.

Bradford Industrial Park – The Chief informed the Committee that after months of work he believes that Westerly Ambulance Corp Dispatch and its attorney now are of the understanding that the Bradford Industrial Park is not part of the Bradford or any other fire district. The Chief and Moderator are looking to schedule a meeting with Dispatch and its representatives in an effort to resolve the matter prior to the commencement of litigation.

Charter Review Committee – There has been no action from this committee to date. Due to time restrictions the Moderator will not be able to chair the committee and will be looking for someone to fill the position.

Chief's Contract Status – A draft agreement has been reviewed and discussed between the Moderator and the Chief. The Chief's Contract working group will meet to review and discuss the document prior to it being sent to the full Operating Committee.

Public Comments – Tax payer J. Angelo offered that since District was looking at sealing it parking lots and driveways, to show representatives of the District the work he had performed on his own drive way uses a process than the traditional sealing method.

J. Angelo discussed the Municipal Enterprise Funds process with the Committee and how such Funds may use double entry accounting for services they provide for a fee such as water, sewer, transfer station, etc.

J. Angelo mentioned that he was tasked at looking into the potential of a Public Safety Officer position for the Town of Westerly.

Correspondence – The District received a thank you note from the Rhode Island Last Team for a donation that the group used to provide its team members with rain trench coats.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Steve White District Clerk