

# Dunn's Corners Fire District

1 Langworthy Rd  
Westerly, RI 02891

## Minutes Operating Committee Meeting November 15, 2016

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at Station #1.

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

Additional Attendee(s): Friends of the Quonie Grange board member Ron Meneo and DCFD 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Carl Johnson.

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 October 11, 2016 meeting minutes as presented with the following change; The Committee reopened the meeting at 7:15PM and the Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.*

**Friends of the Quonie Grange(FOTQG)** – R. Meneo updated the committee on the following;

- The FOTQG committee is working on the septic repair project. The project is pending the removal of a tree that the District had previously for safety reasons designated for removal. Chief Frink noted that he had obtained 3 bids using a standard RFP and recommended that Rocky's Tree Service be contracted to remove the tree and grind the stump.

*A motion was made, seconded and so voted to move forward with the Chief's recommendation to contract with Rocky's Tree Service to remove the tree and grind the stump.*

- R. Meneo noted that the old stoves have been removed. It was noted that a member of the department will aid in the removal of the hood and the Ansel System.
- The FOTQG requested that the ceiling system be replaced in the areas where the hood and Ansel system are located.

*A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to approve the replacement of the ceiling*

*tiles where necessary.*

- The Zoomba Class has offered to paint the small room that is used for changing.
- The Operating Committee was provided with the final lease revision for the Quonochontaug Historical Society's (QHS) use of part of the facility for records storage.
- The FOTQG is studying the options, feasibility and liability insurance issues of allowing beer and wine provided by licensed catering services at the Quonnie Grange facility for functions and future events. Once it has completed its study and if it is feasible and the liability issues are manageable, the FOTQG may ask the Committee to consider and approve allowing beer and wine provided by licensed catering services at the Quonnie Grange facility for functions and future events.
- A lower cost propane provider has been located.
- The FOTQG will be hosting a Family Holiday Gathering at the facility on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Operating Committee was invited to attend.
- The FOTQG has received its 501c3 designation.

**Next OC Meeting** – The next OC meeting will take place at Station #1 on Tuesday December 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's report was tabled until the December meeting

**Chief's Report** – The Chief reported that the AFG grant for \$270,000 to replace the aging SCBA equipment is 90% done and should be completed by the end of the week. He noted that the Census report was done, and the paving work at Station 1 was completed.

The Chief informed the Committee that he went out to bid with a standard RFP for the painting work to be done at Station 1. Three bids ranging from \$6,000 to \$11,950 were received. After reviewing the bids with the Committee, the Chief recommended awarding the job to CertaPro.

*A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Chief's recommendation to use CertaPro for the Station 1 Painting project.*

Treasurer Delaney inquired as to whether or not DCFD lettering was going to be affixed to the new Car 1. The Chief stated that he was not planning on adding the markings citing safety concerns and that the Board of Engineers were supportive of his decision.

Treasurer Delaney made a motion that any vehicle owned by the district should be properly lettered. Committee member K. Martin seconded the motion and there was a discussion period.

Moderator Thomsen stated that he was in receipt of an opinion from the solicitor stating that all matters relating to the Department's vehicles and equipment are up to the discretion of the Chief and not the Committee.

Treasurer Delaney, member Martin and member Schreier all voiced their opinions on the matter in support of lettering the vehicle. Member Algieri stated he voiced his opinion at the Board of

Engineers meeting and was not going to take a position on this matter at the Operating Committee.

2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Carl Johnson a member of the Board of Engineers (BOE) stated support for the Chief's decision and noted that after reviewing the matter with the Chief the BOE believed that due to current national hostilities to first responders that for safety purposes Car 1 should not be lettered.

The motion was tabled pending further written clarification from the solicitor.

Treasurer Delaney excused himself from the meeting at 6:03 PM. Both Moderator Thomsen and member Martin excused themselves from the meeting at 6:05 PM.

After a 5 minute recess Moderator Thomsen and member Martin returned and the meeting resumed at 6:10PM

The Chief concluded his report by informing the Committee that the new 100 mil radio alarm system project was complete and the he would like the removal of the current 100 mil cable to be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Committee member Algieri commended the Chief for bringing the District into the current century.

The Chief was excused from the meeting at 6:20PM.

**Car 1 Financing** – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to ratify the Treasurer's decision to finance the new Car 1 as approved by the taxpayers at the July 2016 annual meeting; to ratify his decision to finance with the Westerly Community Credit Union; and to ratify that the Chief and Moderator were authorized to sign on behalf of the District.*

**QCBFD Contract** - A new multi-year contract to provide fire protection services to QCBFD is currently being reviewed by their representatives.

**Station 1 Parking Lot Work** – *A motion was made, seconded and so voted to ratify expenditures for the asphalt paving, patching and crack sealing of the Station 1 lot.*

**Incentive Plan Tax Reporting** – Committee member and Department representative T. Algieri informed the Committee that the members of the Department have asked him to request that the Operating Committee consider switching the tax reporting status for the incentive program from 1099MISC reporting to W2 reporting. The District's CPA's have suggested this change in the past. The Committee will have the Treasurer look into the costs and benefits to making this change and report their findings back to the Committee.

**Correspondence** – None

**Public Comments** – Taxpayer James Angelo addressed the Committee stating that according to State “Title 13” that a Charter Review Committee is not required to work on the Charter revisions and the State regulation should be used as guideline for the process.

The District Solicitor will be consulted on the matter.

The Committee closed the meeting and went into executive session to discuss the development of the Chief’s Contract at 6:30 PM

The Committee reopened the meeting at 7:05 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

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Steve White - District Clerk