

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
March 14, 2023

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Station One, Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, Bob Delaney, Chief Keith Kenyon, Paul Gencarella, Ken Martin, and Bill Balczak. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Attorney Michael Cozzolino and Members of the Friends of the Quonochontaug Grange.

Paul Gencarella, Moderator coordinated the meeting.

Actions of OC (all votes unanimous unless otherwise noted).

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting started at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Previous Meeting Minutes – a Motion was made and seconded to approve and file the Minutes of February 14, 2023 Operating Committee Meeting.

FOTOG Report – Ann Bettinger read the report that has been emailed to all members.

Rental Updates – additional rentals are coming in, continue to manage expenses closely
Upcoming/Ongoing maintenance items – crushed asphalt parking area regarded,
Insulation/shingle project to be completed
April 1st landscaping work to be done – this should not interfere with events.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Delaney gave the following report:

The expenses are tracking well against the budget and the rates are good.
\$400,000 is set aside for asset purchases when ready.
There are some heavy costs but the budget is in good shape.

A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report.

Tax Assessors/Collector's Report – Rosalind Choquette, Tax Assessor

No Report Given

Chief's Report – Chief Kenyon reported as follows:

Fire Calls 31; EMS 2 for a total of 33. Fire Marshall RFI – 3; RSI 4; CPR 2; RPR 1. 193 training hours.

Station 1 water damage repair to begin this month and working on the kitchen wall for the new appliances.

Mike's Computer is upgrading what we have, including remote access.

Truck Committee still on track for May meeting, four vendors are to submit their bids.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all reports that were given.

Grange Siding Job:

Rich Thomsen has two bids for blown-in Class One insulation which will help to get the building into shape. This is a first step.

There was communication received from the Charlestown Historical Society supporting cedar for the siding on the Grange building.

There was discussion regarding bringing the matter of the siding cost back to the taxpayers, and let them decide if going with cedar or vinyl is preferred.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to hire RJL Insulation, LLC to install blown in insulation into the Grange.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:30 PM at Station One.

ERISA Attorney Assistance:

Bob Delaney asked if we had received a statement from the Attorney yet. Attorney Cozzolino indicated no statement had been received to date.

ARPA Matters:

The Moderator stated that he sent letters to all Westerly Town Council Members. He received one response from Council Member, Joy Cordiero.

The Moderator has spoken to the Bradford Moderator, and he is in agreement that the engine should remain with Dunn's Corners Fire District.

Bob Delaney feels we cannot wait past the April Town Council Meeting regarding these ARPA funds. The Moderator indicates we need to have a plan if we do not get the ARPA Funds. Chief states we should discuss this in an Executive Session.

Attorney Cozzolino states have Executive Session on Agenda for next month, but an Executive Session was decided on for Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Budget:

Chief indicates there will be an increase in utilities and fuel for upcoming budget. Maintenance and repairs will remain the same and will be combined. Chief will have all receipts. Office supplies will now be on one line, will combine all small items instead of different categories.

Postage for the Tax Collector will still remain a separate line item.

General increase to taxpayers 3 ¾% no more.

Old Business –

NONE

Public Comments -

NONE

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 7:16 PM

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:16 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk