

Dunn's Corners Fire District
Operating Committee Meeting
May 9, 2023

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Station One, Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members - Richard Thomsen, Bob Delaney, Paul Gencarella, Ken Martin, and Bill Balcezak. 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 April 11, 2023 Operating Committee Meeting.

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

Rental Updates –rentals are picking up with the spring/summer season and doing really well. Bob Delaney indicated that landscaping will begin on June 3, 2023. There is no training going on that day.

Ann indicated that she would have items for budget by the June meeting.

Ann asked about the internet service – Chief indicates we are switching to Verizon and he will contact Tom Doyle when this occurs.

ARPA Project – AED – Chief states is here and they are waiting for the cabinet to install it in.

Chair Lift – Bill Myers will assist on this.

Bob asked about the Historic Society Grant for cedar shingles – Ann is working on getting that information.

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

The expenses are tracking well against the budget and the rates are good.

There are reserves for a new truck.

Bob sees no issues and there are no surprises thus far.

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

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

The office continued to resend bills that were returned due to property transfers.
The results of the collection from April resulted in a rate of 100.17%

Roz took care of resident who had issue last month without any problem.
There are still 196 bills outstanding.

Chief's Report –

The station is switching over to new firehouse software and he will give a report next month.
There was 132 training hours.

Station 1 repairs begin tomorrow.

Computers have been updated and moving to the cloud. There is now the ability to work remotely.
The final check was received from the Town of Charlestown ARPA funds – he is now working on the paperwork.

Chief is working on DEM Grant and the PPE Line Grant.

Engine 6 was out of service but now back in service and is in good shape for age of truck.

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

Resolutions: Fence work – done

Kitchen work – 65% completed

Landscaping – in progress.

Car 1 – on order, deposit has been given, delivery late summer

Truck 6 - on track

Station 1 Upgrade – being worked on

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, June 13, 2023
6:30 PM at Station One.

Engine 6 Replacement Committee: Jeffrey Thomas presented an excellent power point presentation to all that were present. He was able to answer as many questions that were asked.

A special meeting is being organized so that the taxpayers may attend to specifically hear about Engine 6 replacement.

Budget: Chief went over the budget. There still may be a few changes. Fuel is a big item. There is a meeting tomorrow regarding software. Its much more user friendly.

All adjustments from last month's discussion have been updated.

Bob states that Tower 5 is paid off and can be removed.

Purchase reserve needs to be bumped up.

Old Business – Moderator sent an email to Town Council regarding ARPA Funds. Councils indicates maybe on the May meeting agenda, Moderator is hopeful for the June meeting. Moderator will call Joy Cordeiro and ask the status.

Bob Delaney and Mary Rathbun will work together to get a thank you of some sort to Charlestown Town Council regarding the ARPA funds received by them.

The Nominating Committee will be contacted to begin their work to fill positions that will need to be filled.

Public Comments -

Bob asked Bradford members that were attendance about Engine 5. Bradford members state they want to sell truck back to DCFD or go to a broker.

We are still hopeful of receiving ARPA funds from the Town of Westerly for the Bradford truck purchase which we have been pursuing since December, 2021.

Brian O'Rourke, Moderator had been in touch with John Merkel about all this back in April, 2021.

At that time \$140,000.00 was agreed upon. He will work with the committee to make it happen.

Chief gave many reasons why the truck is needed by DCFD to serve Bradford.

Bradford would like to be able to present something to their taxpayers at their Annual Meeting in September.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:19 PM

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:19 PM

Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk