

Dunn's Corners Fire District

Operating Committee

Annual Report

2025 - 2026

July 15, 2026

The Dunn's Corners Fire District Operating Committee would like to share with you this report on the District's activities for the 2025 - 2026 fiscal year. The Operating Committee is proud of the efforts and accomplishments of the Fire Department and the Fire District to maintain and enhance all the progress that was made during the year. The Committee hopes you will join us at the District Annual Meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM to celebrate the successes and lay the groundwork for another great year to come.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact the District Office

Linda Garabedian, District Clerk
Dunn's Corners Fire District

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**THE CALL
DUNN'S CORNERS FIRE DISTRICT
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

TO BE HELD AT:
DUNN'S CORNERS FIRE STATION #1
1 LANGWORTHY ROAD
WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND

TO BE HELD ON:
WEDNESDAY, July 15, 2026 TIME: 7:00 PM

The annual meeting of the Dunn's Corners Fire District will be held at the Dunn's Corners Fire Station #1, 1 Langworthy Road, Dunns Corners, Westerly, Rhode Island, for the following purposes:

- To order taxes and provide for the assessing and collection of the same on ratable inhabitants and property in said Fire District
- To review and vote on approval of fiscal year 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes.
- To adopt a budget for the ensuing year.
- To authorize spending resolutions.
- To authorize the borrowing for the ensuing year and for all other charges and expenses whatsoever arising within said Fire District
- To elect At-Large members of the Operating Committee (Please go to www.dunnscornersfire.com for a list of candidates).
- To transact such other business as may legally come before such meeting.
- Public Comments

Please visit www.dunnscornersfire.com for a copy of the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting and associated reports. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing impaired, please call 401-322-0577 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting date.

Linda Garabedian,
District Clerk

Dunn's Corners Fire District

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 7:00 PM

Agenda

- I. Call to Order (P.Gencarella)
- II. Review of Fire Safety Protocols (Chief Kenyon)
- III. Pledge of Allegiance (P.Gencarella)
- IV. Moment of Silence (P.Gencarella)
- V. Reading of the Call (Linda Garabedian)
- VI. Determination of a Quorum (P.Gencarella)
- VII. Approval of the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes (P.Gencarella)
- VIII. Operating Committee Report (P.Gencarella /Chief Kenyon)
 - a. Chief's Report
 - b. 2025/2026 Treasurer's Report (Bob Delaney)
 - c. Moderator's Report (Paul Gencarella)
- IX. Tax Assessor/Tax Collector's Report (Rosalind Choquette)
- X. Financial Plan and Operating Budget (Chief Kenyon)
- XI. Resolutions (P.Gencarella)
- XII. Election of Officers (Chief Kenyon)
 - Lieutenant – Michael Esposito
 - Career Firefighter – Ava Bridge
- XIII. Old Business (P.Gencarella)
 - a. Solicitor's Report (Michael Cozzolino)
- XIV. New Business (P.Gencarella)
 - a. Suggested By-Law changes (P.Gencarella)
 - b. Election of the Operating Committee Members (Nominating Committee)
 - c. Re-Appointment of Tax Assessor/Tax Collector, Clerk, Treasurer and Solicitor (P Gencarella)
- XV. Public Comments
- XVI. Adjournment (P.Gencarella)

A Message from the DCFD Fire Moderator 7-15-26

Good evening, everyone.

For those of you who may not know me, my name is Paul Gencarella Jr., and I have had the privilege of serving as the Dunn's Corners Fire District Moderator since 2023. I am a lifelong resident of Dunn's Corners and have been blessed to call this community home. My wife and I have been married for 26 years, and together we have three wonderful adult children.

This evening, I'd like to share three words that I believe define the Dunn's Corners Fire District: **Service, Relationships, and Prudence**. While each of these values stands on its own, they are also deeply interconnected. Together, they create the foundation of a strong and successful fire district.

Service is often associated with our volunteers responding to emergencies, and rightfully so. But service extends far beyond emergency response. It is demonstrated in our meetings, our events, our programs, and in the countless ways we support one another every day. Every member of this district has a role in serving our community and each other.

Relationships are equally important. Throughout the DCFD, we work with one another across departments, committees, and the community. These relationships require trust, respect, and communication. It's often said that communication isn't just about what we say—it's about how our message is received. When we invest in our relationships, we strengthen our entire organization.

Prudence is the wisdom to make sound decisions. Some decisions must be made in an instant, while others require careful thought and consideration. Every day, each of us chooses how we will show up—for ourselves, for our fellow members, and for our community. Practicing prudence personally, professionally, and fiscally helps ensure that we continue to move our district forward responsibly.

I was once taught that if you want to know how you're doing in any area of life, simply look at the results you're getting. Like any organization, the DCFD has opportunities to improve, and we should never stop striving to be better. But I also believe our results reflect a district that is committed to service, built on strong relationships, and guided by prudent decision-making.

As your Moderator, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your time, your dedication, your support, and your friendship. It is an honor to serve alongside all of you, and I look forward to continuing to work together for the benefit of the Dunn's Corners Fire District and the community we proudly serve.

With gratitude,

Paul Gencarella Jr.
Fire Moderator
Dunn's Corners Fire District

Dunn's Corners Fire District
1 Langworthy Road
Westerly, RI 02891
Minutes
Annual Meeting
July 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, Moderator Paul Gencarella presiding.

Legal Notices - The meeting was advertised in the Westerly Sun on July 9, 2025. Notice was posted at the Dunn's Corners Market, Dunn's Corners Fire Station #1 on Langworthy Road, Dunn's Corners Mobil, Charlestown and Dunn's Corners Fire Station #2 on Post Road, Charlestown. The notice was posted on the district's website and the Rhode Island Secretary of State's e-Town Crier site on July 10, 2025.

Safety Protocols – Chief Kenyon reviewed the fire safety protocols for the meeting's attendees.

Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was conducted.

Moment of Silence – There was a moment of silence observed for those who have passed on from families of members of the Dunn's Corners Fire Department.

Reading of the Call – District Clerk Linda Garabedian read the Call of the Annual Meeting. Twenty-one (21) taxpayers signed the attendance roster. A quorum was present.

A motion was made seconded and so voted by acclimation that a quorum was present for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

July 17, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes - Copies of the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were printed and available for those in attendance.

A motion was made seconded and so voted by acclimation to approve the July 17, 2024 Annual Meeting minutes.

Reports

Chief's Report

We have finished another successful year at the Dunn's Corners Fire Department. The Department continues to maintain and increase its membership. The members and I strive to provide and continue the best service possible.

This year I would like to acknowledge a member of the public who has supported the dept for many years and passed away recently. Jim Angelo passed away May 19, 2025. Jim was an

extremely dedicated public participant of the Dunn's Corners fire District meetings for the past 15-20 years. As our past District Moderator John Merkle had stated in a post on the DCFD website "Jim was never reluctant to ask the hard questions that needed to be asked" Those hard questions have definitely played a part in what DCFD is today. Thank you Jim. It saddened me to learn that Jim Angelo passed away on May 19, 2025.

The Dunn's Corners Fire District along with all other districts that DCFD provides services for, should take pride in the fact that the members of Dunn's Corners Fire Department continue to step up to the challenge.

All members continue to be extremely dedicated to improving their skills and help provide the district with the best possible emergency response and patient care.

Over the past year, the members of this department have participated in a total of 4,354 hours of fire and EMS training. This past fiscal year we have continued to focus on recruitment and retention. I am happy to announce that membership has grown from 62 members to 69 adding 7 new members.

Membership Breakdown: Senior Members 40 Life Members 6 Associate Members 8 Junior Members 11 Probationary Members 4 Total Members 69 6/1/2024-5/31/2025 Incidents: During the past year, DCFD responded to 416 incidents. The tables below provide a breakdown of all incidents.

Breakdown of Incidents: Fire 332 Medical 84

Breakdown of Incidents by District: District Number of Incidents DCFD 309 Bradford 47 Shelter Harbor 10 Central Beach 23 Shady Harbor 4 Mutual Aid 37

Fire Marshal Inspections: Inspections 149, Plan Reviews 72, Business License Inspections 45

Project Updates:

Throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year, numerous projects were completed to help maintain and/or improve operations and district property.

1.DCFD Hired a new fulltime firefighter Cesar Reynoso to help with daytime response during the weekdays and other times as needed to best fit what the department needs. We also filled two Captains positions; the two Captains are Richard Stebbins and Andrew Donnelly. We also have a new Safety Officer Travis Serra. All members will be sworn in tonight.

2.The Grange Building now has all new vinyl siding and a chair lift was installed in the staircase

3.Members continue to update and improve the Station 2 training grounds. Two new conex containers that were delivered the previous year have been moved into place. With the resurfacing project that was conducted on Rt 1 this past fall, DCFD was able to acquire a good amount of road grind that aided in creating a solid, safe and flame resistant training surface around the training

grounds. Members will also continue this year to make more updates and construct new training props on the training grounds to assist with firefighter training.

4. Last July we had a company, Redline Gear Cleaning come to our station 1. Redline deep cleaned, deconned, and inspected 42 sets of our firefighter's turnout gear to NFPA standards. I plan to make this an annual event in July as it helps bring another level of firefighter safety given the fact that during the cleaning and inspection process, they are removing cancer causing carcinogens from the gear. This process aids in keeping our firefighters safer and healthy for many years by being proactive.

5 This past year the new Tanker 1 replacement was designed and voted on by the taxpayers for purchase at a special meeting last May. There is a two-year delivery date for the new apparatus. I would like to thank Retired Deputy Chiefs Ted Burke and Tom Algieri for their knowledge and experience assisting Deputy Chief Jeff Thomas and myself as a committee with the long process that took several months to finish

6. This year all IPADS in the apparatus were replaced and apparatus that never had the IPADS will now have them installed. This will be necessary as the department transitions to an all-digital reporting system. The tables also assist with navigation and allow access to any other information resources that may be needed on a scene.

Grants and other funding Updates:

1. A grant application was submitted to FEMA for AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) to help acquire funds in the amount of \$750,000 to possibly aid in the purchase of the New Tanker 1 to replace the current Tanker 1 that is 32 years old.

Acknowledgements:

At this time I would like to thank the following for helping make the past year a successful one for the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

1. All the members of the Department. Each member always continues to bring something to the table and put 100% effort into the department. All your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. Thank you all very much.

2. All the officers for stepping up, getting the job done, and keeping our members motivated, safe and well trained

3. Mary Rathbun, for her continued commitment to the department and all the behind the scene work that you do to keep things moving forward in the office for the department and the district.

4. The members of the Operating Committee for the countless hours you have volunteered to help grow and improve the Dunn's Corners Fire District

5. All our local police, fire, and EMS partners in town for their unified commitment to emergency response in the community.

6. All of the citizens that have continued to support all the members and operations of the Dunn's Corners Fire Department.

7. Lastly, I would like to thank my wife, Andi and our children Brody and Karlin for their continued support and patience throughout another year as I continue to serve as the Chief for the Dunn's Corners Fire District

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to approve the Chief's Report.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer reviewed the financial statements for the period of June 2024 through May 2025.

It was an excellent financial year.
The budget was kept on track.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Treasurer's Report and accept the fiscal year end 2024 - 2025 unaudited financial statements.

Moderator's Report –

As your Fire Moderator, I am proud to share a few words at our Annual Meeting as we reflect on another year of progress and service.

Thanks to the dedication of our passionate, competent staff and our many selfless volunteers, our department remains ready to respond to every call with professionalism and care. We continue to invest in keeping our vehicles and apparatus up to date, ensuring our firefighters have the best tools to protect life and property in our community.

Equally important, we remain committed to strong fiscal stewardship — maintaining a low tax rate and one of the lowest delinquency rates around, so your trust and contributions are used responsibly and wisely.

Our success comes from all of you — the residents who support, encourage, and stand behind this department year after year. Together, we keep Dunn's Corners a safe, resilient, and welcoming place to call home.

Thank you for your trust and for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Fire Moderator. Here's to another year of progress and community spirit. We are UPP...United, Prepared, and Proud.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Moderator's Report.

Tax Assessor's Report – Tax Assessor Rosalind Choquette reported for the fiscal year 2024/2025 collection resulted in a rate of 101% overall and this factors in past due amounts collected for the years of 2008 – 2024.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Tax Assessor's Report.

Financial Plan and Operating Budget 2024-2025 – The Chief reviewed the proposed expense budget recommended to the taxpayers by the Operating Committee and developed by the Chief and the Board of Engineers with input from the Operating Committee. Budget has been posted on the website. Increase was limited as much as possible. Some line items have been consolidated for administrative purposes.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to approve the proposed 2025 - 2026 budget.

Resolutions

Station 1 and Station 2 – Updates and Upgrades/Training Ground Upgrades – Resolved that the Operating Committee be given authority to use up to \$55,000.00 from the Building and Grounds Restricted Account for the following: \$9,000.00 training ground upgrades; \$16,500.00 for prefab sheds at Station 1 and Station 2; \$14,000.00 for gear lockers; \$8,000.00 for landscape upgrades, and \$7,500.00 for air conditioning replacement.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented

Loan Payoff – Resolved that the Operating Committee be given authority to pay up to \$94,000.00 on the outstanding loan of Engine 4 with budgeted funds and the balance from the General Reserve.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented

Authority to Access Restricted Truck Fund and Equipment Fund for Borrowing/Lease – Resolved that the Operating Committee be given the authority to access the Restricted Truck Fund and Equipment Fund for up to \$600,000.00 for purchase of new engine and equipment and to borrow or lease up to \$400,000.00 to cover the balance of the new engine cost. Authorization to pay \$215,000.00 for chaise of new tanker.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented

Authority to Access Restricted Funds for Unanticipated Repairs - Resolved that the Operating Committee be given the authority to access the Restricted Truck Fund for up to \$50,000.00 to mitigate unanticipated truck repairs and the Restricted Equipment Fund for up to \$15,000.00 to mitigate unanticipated equipment repairs that may occur between Annual Meetings.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented

Ratification and Approval of Acts of Officers - Resolved that each and all of the resolutions, acts and proceedings of the District Officers, as shown by the records of the respective officers in carrying out and promoting the purposes, objectives and interests of the Dunn's Corners Fire District, be and the same approved, ratified and hereby made the acts and deeds of the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented

Authorization of Representation - Resolved that the Moderator, or such person or persons as the Operating Committee or the Moderator shall designate, be and hereby are fully authorized and empowered to enter objections or legal actions on behalf of the Dunn's Corners Fire District in reference to any zoning matters, liquor licenses, legislative matters, or any other subject affecting the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

Bob Delaney suggested cannibus matters be included in next year's resolution.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented

Tax Resolution – Resolved that the taxable inhabitants of said District qualified to vote on any proposition to impose tax, in District meeting legally assembled on the 16th day of July, A.D., 2025, hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on the taxable inhabitants and property in the sum of not less than \$1,010,000.00 nor more than \$1,040,300.00 credited to. Said tax is for ordinary expenses of interest and charges, for the payment of interest and indebtedness in whole or in part of said District and for other purposes authorized by law. The Board of Assessors shall assess and apportion said tax on the inhabitants and ratable property of said District of the 31st day of December, 2024, at 12:00 o'clock Noon, according to law, and shall, on completion of said assessment, date, certify, and sign the same and deliver to and deposit the same in the office of the District Clerk on or before the 15th day of August, A.D. 2025. The District Clerk, on receipt of said assessment, shall forthwith make a copy of the same and deliver it to the District Treasurer, who shall forthwith issue and affix to said copy a warrant under his/her hand, directed to the Collector of Taxes of said District commanding him/her to proceed and collect said tax on the persons and estates liable therefore. Said tax shall be due and payable on and between the first day of September next and the 30th day of September, 2025, and all taxes remaining unpaid on said 30th day of September, A.D. 2025, shall carry, until collected, a penalty at the rate of twelve per centum (12%) per annum upon such unpaid tax. A handling fee will be imposed on reissued tax bills sent for collection purposes in the amount of \$3.00 per rebilling not to exceed \$36.00 per fiscal year per account. No tax bill sent out shall be less than five and 00/100 (5.00) dollars.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented

Special Appropriation - Resolved that the Treasurer be directed to deposit in the Unrestricted General Fund Surplus the total of the unexpended appropriations as shown by the records of the Treasurer for the fiscal year 2025-2026, and all other monies collected during said fiscal year, but not otherwise appropriated. Provided, however, that prior to January 1, 2026, the Treasurer is

authorized to use such portion of said sum of unexpended appropriations and other monies not otherwise appropriated as he or she deems necessary in anticipation of receipt of taxes assessed December 31, 2024.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented

Tax Anticipation Note - Resolved that the District Treasurer be and hereby is authorized and empowered during the current fiscal year of the District, commencing June 1, 2025, and ending May 31, 2026, to borrow such sum or sums of money as shall be necessary for the payment of the current liabilities and expenses of the District, but not to exceed in the whole the sum of Fifty thousand AND NO/100 (\$50,000) DOLLARS and to issue negotiable promissory note or notes of the District therefore, which shall be made payable not later than one (1) year from the respective date or dates thereof. Negotiable notes issued pursuant to the authority hereof shall be signed by the District Treasurer and countersigned by the District Clerk, and such countersignatures shall be conclusive evidence to all holders of such note or notes of the approval and consent of the District and the District Officers to the loan or loans evidenced thereby. All terms and conditions of said note or notes and the method of sale thereof not fixed herein or by the provisions of law or the charter of the District may be fixed by the District Treasurer. The District Treasurer is hereby authorized and empowered to renew any of said notes from time to time, but any such renewal note shall be due not later than one (1) year of the original note so renewed.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Resolution as presented.

Election of Officers:

2 Captains – Rich Stebbins and Drew Donnelly

1 Safety Officer – Travis Serra

1 Fire Fighter – Cesare Reynoso

Old Business –

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Cozzolino indicated that the District is in full compliance on all matters and at this time there are no legal actions against the Fire District. The District continues to be running smoothly.

It is noted that the fee of \$650.00 for responding to motor vehicle accidents remains the same.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to accept the Solicitor's Report as presented.

New Business – Paul Gencarella, Jr. and Dan Roy of the Operating Committee are here for nomination.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to approve two Operating Committee Members for reappointment.

Rosalind Choquette, Tax Assessor/Tax Collector; Linda Garabedian, Clerk; Robert Delaney, Treasurer; and Michael Cozzolino, Solicitor are all here for reappointment of their duties.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by acclimation to approve Rosalind Choquette, Linda Garabedian, Robert Delaney and Michael Cozzolino for reappointment of their positions.

By Law Changes – Moderator read the proposed By-Law Changes to No.1 and No.5 of the District By-Laws

Motion was made and seconded to approve the By-Law Changes as read.

Adjournment:

A motion was made seconded and so voted by acclimation to adjourn the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda F. Garabedian
District Clerk