To the Taxpayers of the Dunns Corners Fire District, Shelter Harbor Fire District, Shady Harbor Fire District and the Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District:

We assume that all of you have probably read in the local newspapers or otherwise heard that the Dunns Corners Fire District (the "DCFD") has agreed to provide the Bradford Fire District fire protection in the short term. The purpose of this letter is to inform all DCFD taxpayers and the taxpayers of the contracted fire districts of how your Operating Committee and Fire Department came to this decision.

The Bradford Fire District and Department (BFD) have long been a mutual aid partner with DCFD, with DCFD assisting BFD in any fire incidents in Bradford and likewise. Over the last year or so, BFD has had its problems with managing its district, with its small tax base, and a department utilizing a firehouse that is not properly equipped and built on leased land.

This past spring and summer, these issues came to a head. The owner of the land upon which the BFD firehouse sits decided to sell its land. When BFD determined that it was not in BFD's interest to purchase this property, the said owner initiated an eviction lawsuit, which put BFD into a perilous situation. As BFD struggled to manage this situation, the BFD district and their department came to a disagreement as how to proceed. At this time, leaders of the BFD approached DCFD, specifically your Operating Committee, with the possibility that they may not be able to provide fire protection to their taxpayers due to the current circumstances in the relationship between the BFD district, its department and their landlord and whether DCFD was willing and able to help them out.

The DCFD Chief stated that DCFD could provide fire protection to the BFD in the event they could not do so themselves. Your Operating Committee also determined that in providing such protection, the DCFD would not share any financial burdens of the BFD and would only provide fire protection at a cost equal to what DCFD taxpayers pay.

Prior to the BFD annual meeting of September 10, 2013, the BFD fire department evidently met and the fire department's Chief and some of their officers and volunteers decided to resign from their department. These resignations were tendered to their district at the BFD annual meeting.

Anticipating that such an incident could happen, your Operating Committee worked with the BFD Moderator on a temporary agreement, a copy of which is attached, that would provide fire protection to the BFD taxpayers and property owners through May 31, 2014. The fee is calculated by applying the DCFD mil rate to the BFD total assessment, apportioned over the time period from September 10, 2013 through May 31, 2014. All should note that the DCFD does not absorb any debt, contractual obligations or make any other promises other than to provide fire protection for a stated fee along with the use of all fire protection equipment that is available and meets all state fire standards.

Without a properly manned fire department, BFD accepted this offer from the DCFD. This offer included a requirement that this agreement had to be ratified at a properly noticed and constituted DCFD Operating Committee meeting. After some thought and given the magnitude of this decision, the Operating Committee will recommend that the temporary agreement as well as the goal of a more permanent agreement be put to the vote of the DCFD taxpayers. Until those meetings take place, DCFD will continue to meet its obligations as stated in the said temporary agreement.

Aside from the financial matters regarding providing fire protection, the overall success of any fire department rests upon the efforts of its volunteers. There are many capable volunteers in BFD. The DCFD Chief, their officers, engineers and volunteers, sincerely hope that the BFD volunteers choose to continue to protect their Bradford neighbors by volunteering with DCFD and provide the best possible fire protection service to BFD.

Please continue to monitor the DCFD website for notices of these upcoming meetings. The importance of the participation of our taxpayers in the governance of our fire district cannot be understated, please attend and make your opinions known.

In closing, we thank our own volunteers and our mutual aid partners in the Southern League who, if an emergency need arises, will assist us in taking care of BFD.

The DCFD Operating Committee

TO: BRADFORD FIRE DISTRICT, ITS RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS

FROM: OPERATING COMMITTEE
DUNNS CORNERS FIRE DISTRICT
DUNNS CORNERS FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

RE: FIRE PROTECTION

SHOULD THE BRADFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT DISSOLVE AND LEAVE THE BRADFORD FIRE DISTRICT WITHOUT FIRE PROTECTION, THEN THE DUNNS CORNERS FIRE DISTRICT OFFERS THE FOLLOWING:

The Dunns Corners Fire District and Department (collectively "DCFD") hereby offer fire protection to the Bradford Fire District, and the residents and taxpayers therein, under the following terms.

1. DCFD shall provide fire protection to every property and every resident within the Bradford Fire District from today, September 10, 2013, through May 31, 2014.

2. A. For this service, Bradford Fire District shall pay to DCFD the amount of $40,698, which is calculated as follows: the DCFD mil rate of $0.38 multiplied by the total assessment of Bradford Fire District ($148,665,800) for the period from September 10, 2013 through May 31, 2014 (263/365). DCFD and Bradford Fire District shall agree to a payment schedule that will take into account Bradford Fire District's cash flow.

B. For this service, Bradford Fire District and Bradford Fire Department shall make all their fire-fighting equipment available to DCFD for fire protection.

C. During the term of this agreement, any savings incurred by Bradford Fire District due to this contract should be used to reduce any Bradford Fire District debt.

3. During this period, DCFD and Bradford Fire District shall negotiate a more complete agreement for a term (to be determined) extending from May 31, 2014 forward.

4. The DCFD welcomes any volunteer firemen of the Bradford Fire Department to join DCFD.

5. Should the Bradford Fire District accept this proposal, then this agreement shall be put on the October, 2013 agenda of the DCFD Operating Committee for approval. Until that time, fire protection shall be provided to the Bradford Fire District and its residents and taxpayers as provided above.