**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

January 14, 2025

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Station One, Dunns Corners, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members – Robert Delaney, Rich Thomsen, Dan Roy, Ken Martin, and Paul Gencarella, A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Attorney Michael Cozzolino

Friends of 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 – Discussion regarding Ernie Rathbun and Bob Delaney’s comments relative to the paydown of the loan. After much discussion a Motion was made and seconded to approve and file the Minutes of December 10, 2024 Operating Committee Meeting with the removal of paragraph relative to loan paydown.

FOTQG Report – Ann Bettinger was not present. Her report was read as follows:

Updates

* Continue to manage expenses closely
* Maintaining active rental schedule
* Rich indicated that there are no upcoming trainings scheduled for February.
* The floor on the upper level is finished.

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

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

The damage done to Station One door was covered by insurance.

One CD came due and it was renewed.

The paydown on the loan was made.

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

The office has been working closely with the Tax Sale Attorney’s staff. Tax Sale properties have been forwarded for a title search. 40-day certified letters will be going out Feb. 1st.

Things have progressed with 8 properties being paid off and one being removed because the Town of Westerly has a hold on it.

99.21 % of taxes have been collected to date.

The office continues to answer phone calls and deals with matters in a timely manner.

Bob Delaney stated fees should be paid by each delinquent account. Rosalind stated she thought a flat fee of $5.00 each time she handles an account was fair. The legal notice and attorney fees will be divided by remaining accounts up for tax sale.

The Moderator indicated that Rosalind is doing a great job.

Chief’s Report – Chief was not in attendance at this meeting.

Moderator reported that AFG Grant was submitted for a new tanker.

Chief has two more vendors to meet with prior to any decisions are made.

Station One bay door was damaged and waiting for insurance to proceed with repair.

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

Website – Rich stated Chief is working on. Will update pictures in the spring. It was also suggested that Jeff Thomas attend February’s meeting because he has a lot of knowledge regarding the website.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, February 11, 2025 meeting will be held at the Station One.

Old Business – Ken asked about District By-Laws. Tabled this matter until next month when Chief can discuss.

Attorney Cozzolino was approached by a law firm regarding a Class Action Lawsuit relative to PFAS chemical/turnout gear. Lawsuit is trying to recoup money to replace gear.

With regard to the contracting districts roads, it was suggested to get Moderators out to look at roads and we give recommendations regarding the road problems.

Shelter Harbor has already done a lot of good work.

Public Comments - Charlestown Town Council having a 250 year celebration. Would they like DCFD to help. The Moderator will call Deb Carney regarding this.

Questions regarding Fieldstone Development off Bradford Road. Cisterns are used in there. Homeowners Association not collecting any money. We need to make Bradford aware this is their responsibility.

*Motion was made, second and approved to adjourn meeting at approximately 7:56PM.*

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk