**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

March 13, 2024

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Station 1, Langworthy Road, Westerly, Rhode Island.

Attendees were comprised of OC members – Chief Keith Kenyon, Dan Roy, Bob Delaney, Ken Martin, and Paul Gencarella, A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Friends of the Quonocontaug Grange

 Attorney Michael Cozzolino

Paul Gencarella, Moderator coordinated the meeting.

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

Agenda Items:

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting started at 6:37 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 20, 2024 Operating Committee Meeting.

FOTQG Report –  Ann Bettinger gave the monthly report.

They are a few weeks out on the chair lift, end of March beginning of April.

There is an active rental schedule, they feel they are in good shape and they are managing closely.

Discussion for outdoor area for grilling which had been discussed with Rich Thomsen. They are thinking behind the building and it must be ten feet away from the building.

Status of work being done:

Lighting – Rich Thomsen had updated Ann previously.

Cameras – are all back and working

Asphalt – Mike thought that a small piece of cement to keep water out might work. Chief thought maybe during the summer compacting the asphalt together would help.

Front stairs and ramp – this is being worked on now that weather is warm, will let Rich know the status.

There will be training next Wednesday.

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

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

Financial statements had been sent out for all to review.

CD for six months for $125,000.00 at Washington Trust Company with good interest rate was discussed.

Dan Roy asked where the CDs were held. Bob Delaney stated WTC, WCCU, Berkshire and Navigant banks.

*A motion was made and second to authorize an additional $125,000.00 CD for six months be opened.*

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report.*

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

During the month of February the office mailed out delinquent demand notices on all outstanding balances.

She reported on properties to be forwarded for Tax Sale.

The results in collection resulting a 98% collection rate.

Chief’s Report – for the month of February there were 18 fire calls and 3 EMS calls for a total of 21. For the month of January there were 220 training hours and for this month 218 hours.

The website is being taken care of and should be all set. The Nominating Committee email address has been all set up.

A $860,000.00 AFG grant was submitted for funding for tanker which would help set off the cost.

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

Operating Committee Members – Annual Meeting – Ann Bettinger indicated that the Chief was updating the email address and that it was ready. Ann and Mary Rathbun will meet to discuss what should be posted and Jeff Thomas will post for them when ready.

Fiscal Year Budget – Chief is working on. There are building upgrades and addition of another full time EMT. There will be an office assistant added. ATV replacements (20 years old).

Tanker 1 if no grant money is received need to replace (31 years old). Trying to replace trailer and recycle the old one.

Bob Delaney states there are a couple of items added in from Bradford. He asked if we pay Southern League Dues. Chief says they were submitted last week.

Dan Roy asked about quotes – Bob indicated that we have to report to taxpayers, so yes we must always get at least three quotes.

Dan Roy asked if the budget gets posted before Annual Meeting. Bob indicated that it does. It will be in place by June 1st. Dan asked if it can be revised – Bob states we have plenty of time to work on budget. Ken states we do not usually get turned down because the taxpayers know that we are prudent with their money.

Dan Roy indicated that it is important that the fire fighters are safe and properly taken care of. All members agreed.

Tax Lien Sale – Tax Assessor indicated that there are 32 properties at this time up for tax sale. She will keep committee informed regarding receipt of any payments.

Motor Vehicle Fees – Bob Delaney stated that Mary Rathbun had done the work on this. Mary indicated the following:

2021 - $6,720.00 outstanding – in litigation

2022 - $5,525.00 outstanding – in litigation – 7 outstanding

2023 - $13,250.00 – 27 outstanding

Bob asked about the litigation status – Mary indicated its litigation with the motor vehicles insurance and it probably does not hurt to wait on these accounts. Coronis is the company that Mary has been working with. Bob told her to go back and get the case numbers for the litigation.

Website – There was discussion regarding several sections of the site including district document section, creating a frequently asked question section and updating the Grange picture.

Updates should be made to inspection and permit fees, fire safety code, open burning section and removal of Ladies Auxiliary. There should be work done to the mission statement.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Old Business –  Ken Martin is representative of the fire department and an alternate has been named, Jon Schreier. Attorney Cozzolino indicates that only Ken fills the seat. He will look at Charter to see if representative is interchangeable.

Public Comments - NONE

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 7:52 PM*

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk