**Dunn’s Corners Fire District**

**Operating Committee Meeting**

October 8, 2024

The Dunn’s Corners Fire District Operating Committee (OC) convened on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Quonnie Grange, Post Road, Charlestown, Rhode Island.

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

Other Attendees: Attorney Michael Cozzolino

 Friends of Quonochontaug Grange

Paul Gencarella, Moderator coordinated the meeting.   Thank you to the Grange for hosting the meeting and all of the good food.

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 September 10, 2024 Operating Committee Meeting.

FOTQG Report – Ann Bettinger gave a monthly report.

Updates

* Continue to manage expenses closely
* Maintaining active rental schedule
* Introduction of new FOTQG board members
* Grange will be used November 5 for General Election
* Windows installed in the lower level. Thank you for the support for the Grange Window replacement.
* Furnace installed. Thank you for the support.
* Training or maintenance uses upcoming?

Discussion regarding any update on the disabled parking spots, there has been no correspondence back at this time. Ann thinks maybe she will need the fire department to step in and help. They have signs to put up during the election, so Ann feels it will not be a problem. She will keep in touch regarding the same.

Any upcoming updates/uses of Grange area or training scheduled at Station 2 for rental awareness? There may be some work going on during the day in the training building, but there really is no schedule.

There will be some work on roof to the unit out back. Should be a quick job. Ann will let the renters know.

Verizon internet was installed at Grange for use by FOTQG and renters.

Maintenance items

* Exterior winter maintenance: walkways/ramp
* Update ARPA projects
* Chair Lift installed and first use response – greatly appreciated

Discussion regarding plowing during the winter months, and they are hopeful it is done as early as possible. There is a company that sands the lots and Rich usually does the walkways and salts them as well.

Discussion regarding larger expenses that may need to be addressed in the three year plan. Will bring to next meeting Grange’s long-term plan so it can be discussed.

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

There is only one issue with the balance sheet that needs to be corrected and Kerri is working on it. It relates to the truck loan balance.

The expenses are tracking well against the budget and the rates are good. We have CDs that are coming due, and as long as we are looking at next January for truck purchase, we can extend the CDs out to January, 2026.

We need to put additional deposit into the account from which the loan payments are drawn. Last month an additional $22,000.00 was paid against the truck loan principal.

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

The office attended the Northeast Regional Tax Collectors Conference in Sturbridge, MA September 16 through September 18. The conference was very informative indicating how the different states do business and process collection.

The office has had a successful collection period in September.

As of September 30th the collection rate is 85.42%. There have been some accounts that were paid twice.

Dan Roy asked if it was because mortgage companies pay taxes that taxes are being paid twice. That is correct, so there are several refunds to be sent back.

It was asked about fees, and any discussion at the Conference regarding this. Tax Assessor indicated there was a list that she is looking into and will talk about at the next meeting.

Chief’s Report – for the month of September there were 36 fire calls and 15 EMS calls for a total of 49 calls. There was a total of 229 training hours.

Some updates – on the website changes were finally updated for the fire districts. Bradford now has a correct phone number. The grange information does still need to be updated for rental purposes.

The new hire matter is in its final states. We have got top candidates selected, now we are going through background checks and physicals to make sure all candidates qualify. There will be one full time firefighter hired for now.

The status of carpentry work at the Grange and Station 2 was discussed. New water tank covers need to be fabricated and installed.

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

*A motion was made by B. Delaney and seconded by D. Roy and so voted to authorize the Chief to hire the candidate who scored highest overall in the process of selection for the new full time paid firefighter position, as approved by taxpayers, at the July 2024 Annual Meeting within the budget.*

Website – Chief indicated that website is now pretty much updated. There are still a few things we are working on such as pictures and the mission statement. The station has been pretty busy, so we will probably work on this over the winter. All the important contact information has been updated.

Audit Update- Bob Delaney spoke the auditor, Rob Salimani last week, he said he was 75% complete and he felt within the next two weeks he would have a draft to the Operating Committee.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be Tuesday, November 12, 2024 meeting will be held at the Station One.

Old Business – NONE

Public Comments - NONE

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn meeting and move to Executive Session at 7:15 PM.*

*Motion was made, seconded and approved to seal the Executive Session Minutes and return to Public Meeting at 7:30PM.*

*Motion was made, second and approved to adjourn meeting at approximately 7:30PM.*

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Linda F Garabedian, District Clerk