

FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
144 NEWTON STREET
SOUTH HADLEY, MASS 01075

DOING OF ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 24, 2017

MINUTES OF THE FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 ANNUAL MEETING

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant the inhabitants of Fire District No. 1, South Hadley, Massachusetts, met at the hour and place designated.

It took 89 voters 1 hour and 9 minutes to discuss and vote on the 38 articles on the warrant during the Annual Meeting on Monday, April 24, 2017 at the Town Hall Auditorium, 116 Main Street.

The Annual Meeting was digitally voice recorded.

The following is the action taken on the articles:

Article 1. Voted unanimously to accept the Prudential Committee Report found on Pages 3 thru 9 in the annual report dated for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016.

Article 2. Voted unanimously to accept the Water Commissioner's Report as found on pages 18 thru 26 of the Annual District Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

Article 3. Voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report as found on Pages 10 thru 17 in the annual report dated June 30, 2016.

Article 4. Voted unanimously to fix the salary and compensation of the following elected officers of the Fire District No. 1 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017 as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended: Moderator, Prudential Committee Members, Clerk/Treasurer, Water Commissioners as follows:

Moderator	\$271.99 per year
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Prudential Committee:

Chair	\$1,625.96 per year
Clerk	\$1,883.88 per year
Member	\$1,625.96 per year

Clerk/Treasurer	\$64,082.23 per year, including a 0.5% raise (Fire) and \$1,200.00 a year for car allowance
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Water Commissioners:

Chair	\$1,500.00 per year
Clerk	\$1,500.00 per year
Member	\$1,500.00 per year

Article 5. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,018,853.00 for the Salary Accounts as outlined in the Prudential Committee's budget and to meet said appropriation, raise \$1,437,193.00 and transfer from Ambulance Reserve Fund \$581,660.00

Article 6. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$284,000.00 for the Fire Operating Expense Account as outlined in the Prudential Committee's budget.

Article 7. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$134,250.00 for the Administration Operating Expense Account as outlined in the Prudential Committee Budget.

Article 8. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$174,500.00 for the Ambulance Operating Expense Account as outlined in the Prudential Committee Budget and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$174,500.00 from the Ambulance Reserve Fund.

Article 9. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for the Air Compressor Account.

Article 10. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 35,000.00 for the Building Improvements and Preventative Maintenance Account to the Fire Station Building at 144 Newton Street.

Article 11. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 12,000.00 for the Fire Department Major Equipment Repair Account.

Article 12. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Fire Gear Replacement Account.

Article 13. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the Alarm Radio Console Account.

Article 14. NO ACTION TAKEN. Voted unanimously at special meeting 4-24-17 at 7:30 pm to pay off all Fire Truck Notes.

Article 15. NO ACTION TAKEN. Voted unanimously at special meeting 4-24-17 at 7:30 pm to pay off all Fire Truck Notes and interest.

Article 16. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$408,666.00 for the Fire Retirement Account to be paid by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer Custodian of the Hampshire County Retirement System.

Article 17. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$534,465.00 (75%) for the Fire Department Health, Dental and Life Insurance Account and to meet said appropriations: Raise \$190,059.00 and transfer from free cash \$344,406.00

Article 18. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000.00 for the Fire Department Vehicle Stabilization Account.

Article 19. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for the Ambulance Computer and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$3,000.00 from the Ambulance Reserve Fund.

Article 20. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 for the Ambulance Stabilization Account and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$75,000.00 from the Ambulance Reserve Fund.

Article 21. Voted unanimously to reaccept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, Other Post Employee Benefits, as amended on November 7, 2016.

Article 22. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the Fire Department OPEB fund.

Article 23. Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Fire Department Unfunded Liability Account.

Article 24. Petition from resident Brian McClafin.

MOTION READ AS FOLLOWS: To see if the District will vote to amend its By-Laws, specifically Section 18 under Fire Chief to read the Following:

New By-law: The Fire Chief shall have sole and entire command over the fire department and over all members of the department, and have charge of all apparatus belonging to the same, and direct all measures the Chief may deem proper for the extinguishing of fires and operation of the ambulance service. The Fire Chief shall have all the authority and responsibility pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 48 Section 42 (a).

Existing By-law: The Fire Chief shall have sole and entire command over the fire department and over all members of the department, and have charge of all apparatus belonging to the same, and direct all measures the Chief may deem proper for the extinguishing of fires and operation of the ambulance service. The Fire Chief shall have all the authority and responsibility pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 48 Section 42.

There was a lengthy discussion on this article from several residents.

Question: Robert Hann- What is the difference?

Answer: Brian McClafin- explained the difference between MGL 42 (strong chief) and MGL 42(a) (weak chief)

Response: Mark Sowell (District 1 resident but not a registered voter) spoke in favor of the Chief.

Question: Ray Rondeau-Is the Chief appointed?

Answer: Kevin Taugher-yes

Response: Ray Rondeau- Prudential Committee should have more authority not just one appointed person.

Kevin Taugher- the Prudential Committee does not wish to take over day to day operations of the Chief.

Question: William Schenker- With regard to the MGL 42/42(a) is it the Select Board or Prudential Committee?

Answer: Kevin Taugher- Prudential Committee

Responses: Patrick Brock- clarifying that MGL 42 allows the Prudential Committee to fire for "just cause only" and 42 (a) "for any reason".

Kurt Schenker- Does that apply to just the Chief or any employee?

Brian McClafin: Union protects the employees

Question: Dan Ware- Language in the article does not match all the wording as in the MGL 42 and 42(a). Are we voting for the language in the article or what is stated in the MGL 42/42(a)?

Answer: Mark Beauregard- Voting on what's in the article in front of you.

Question: James Doolittle- Was the Chief let go and reinstated?

Answer: Kevin Taugher- the Chief was never let go. His contract was not renegotiated.

Responses: Pauline McClaflin- 6 years ago the District voted to change the By-law. It was tried and she feels it is not a good fit and wants to change it back.

Ray Morin- Keep the existing by-law he thinks the chief is doing a good job.

Sarah B-Power needs balance. Giving the Prudential Committee more power adds more democracy to the District.

Kurt Schenker- More by-laws are needed to back up this suggested change. Before the By-law was changed there were several other by-laws that were used to run the Fire Department.

Question: Gary- Who does the Chief report to Now? And if the By-law is changed who will he report to?

Answer: Kevin Taugher-Prudential Committee to both questions.

Discussion was closed by the moderator.

BALLOT VOTE

YES- 52

NO-37

Article 24 passes.

Article 25. Voted unanimously to authorize the District Treasurer with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the financial year beginning July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2018. In accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 17.

Article 26. Voted unanimously to allow the Prudential Committee to sell surplus equipment or material.

There was a question on who determines what surplus to sell. Kevin Taugher answered that the Chief makes the determination and it is approved by the Prudential Committee.

Article 27. Voted unanimously to authorize the Prudential Committee to apply for, accept and expend any state or federal grants.

Article 28. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$ 1,815,751.12 to defray the operating cost of the Water Department and to meet said appropriation and to meet said appropriation raise from its Water Receipts,

- \$ 625,647.00 for Wages & Salaries, 3% increase
- 1,094,000.00 for the Maintenance & Operations
- 10,609.00 for the Treasurer Salary, 3% increase
- 10,000.00 for the Reserve Fund
- 54,826.65 for the Amortization of Debt
- 3,000.00 for the Travel Expense
- 1,750.00 for the Audit Expense
- 10,156.71 for the Interest on Debt
- 5,000.00 for the Compensation Account
- 761.76 for the Loan Fees
- \$1,815,751.12 Total from Water Receipts

Article 29. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$ 260,000.00 (75%) for the District Health, Dental & Life Insurance Account and to meet said appropriation transfer the sum of \$260,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Article 30. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$133,000.00 for the Retirement Account and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$133,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Article 31. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 for the Water Tank Stabilization Fund and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Article 32. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Meter Replacement Account and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Article 33. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$130,000.00 for the Replacement and Installation of New Water Mains and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$130,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Article 34. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for the Water Main Leak Detection Account and meet said appropriation transfer the sum of \$3,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Article 35. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for the Water OPEB Account and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$20,000.00 from the Water Receipts.

Article 36. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for the Leaping Wells Watershed Account said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$1,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Article 37. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the SCADA System Maintenance and Equipment Account and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Article 38. Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 for the Critical Infrastructure Stabilization Fund and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$40,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

Motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 9:07 pm.

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Annual Meeting and a true record of the doings at said meeting.


Monica G. Walton, District Clerk

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY

ANNUAL MEETING
4/24/2017

VOTE ON ARTICLE 24

1750

COPY

CIRCLE YES OR NO TO VOTE

YES

would change the by-law as follows

New By-law: The Fire Chief shall have sole and entire command over the fire department and over all members of the department, and have charge of all apparatus belonging to the same, and direct all measures the Chief may deem proper for the extinguishing of fires and operation of the ambulance service. The Fire Chief shall have all the authority and responsibility pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 48 Section 42 (a).

YMC3 **COPY**

NO

would make no changes to the by-law

Existing By-law: The Fire Chief shall have sole and entire command over the fire department and overall members of the department, and have charge of all apparatus belonging to the same, and direct all measures the Chief may deem proper for the extinguishing of fires and operation of the ambulance service. The Fire Chief shall have all the authority and responsibility pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 48 Section 42.