

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2019

- REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners with the Prudential Committee was held at the 144 Newton Street on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. Chairman Michael J. Wozniak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE:
- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Clerk                | William L. Schenker   |
| Associate Member     | Evelyn R. Mikuszewski |
| Superintendent       | Jeffrey A. Cyr        |
| PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE |                       |
| Chairman             | Michael J. Wozniak    |
| Clerk                | Kevin E. Taugher      |
| Associate Member     | Bruce H. Perron       |
| Fire Chief           | Robert R. Authier     |
| Treasurer            | Monica G. Walton      |
- APPROVAL OF WARRANTS: The weekly warrants were signed by all Board Members.
- OPEB INVESTMENT PRESENTATION: Kathryn Cannie, Senior Consultant from Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) presented both Boards with information on ways PARS helps communities put OPEB funds into an IRS approved trust program (Section 115 trust). (See Note 1) PARS are partnered with Hampshire County and currently have over 300 communities in the Northeast & U.S. The program satisfies the requirement of M.G.L. Section 32B 20 and is in accordance with GASB45 (for retiree healthcare benefits, not accessible by creditors and irrevocable).
- ELIMINATING BENEFITS FOR FUTURE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES: Monica Walton stated to Boards that most communities do not offer Health Benefits to their part time employees and Board Members. Monica noted that the District could save a significant amount if we changed our policy. Kevin E. Taugher stated that the savings per person would be around \$12,000 annually. After a brief discussion the Prudential Board agreed to each write up how they think the benefit should be handled for future Board members and discuss it at the next Board meeting.
- KNOW YOUR TOWN: Kevin E. Taugher recognized Linda Young from Know Your Town. Linda is looking to the District(s) to be present at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Know Your Town informational meeting. Linda stated that she has heard from many residents they have questions and would like to hear from the Districts about merging the two Districts. Michael J. Wozniak stated he feels the District is not prepared to go and answer questions the residents may have. Michael stated he would like to put together a committee to gather information for a Merger. Kevin E. Taugher noted he felt as though a committee would not accomplish what he feels residents really are looking for. Kevin noted that residents would most likely be looking for the impact to them financially as well as how the services would impact them. After a

brief discussion, the Board agreed they would not be ready to present anything to the Know Your Town meeting.

- DISTRICT WEBSITE: Monica G. Walton notified the Boards that our website software, First Class is going away as of April 30, 2019 and we will need to get new software. Monica noted that we can get one at a cost to the District of \$2100 and be able to manage portions ourselves through Administrators. After a brief discussion, Kevin E. Taugher made a motion to accept Template C at a cost of \$2100 split between Fire and water with Administrators of Monica Walton, Robert Authier and Jeffrey Cyr. This motion was seconded by Michael J. Wozniak. Motion carried
- SPECIAL MEETING: Monica G. Walton updated the Boards that she needs to hold a Special Meeting to transfer funds from the Ambulance fund for the purchase of a new Ambulance and create a fund for the upcoming election to purchase necessary equipment. After a brief discussion, a Special Meeting will be held on February 13, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. at the Fire Station, 144 Newton Street, So. Hadley. (The Board of Water Commissioners re-convened into another room to finish their agenda items)
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: William L. Schenker made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2019. This motion was seconded by Evelyn R. Mikuszewski. Motion carried
- SAMUEL BERNASH  
STEP RAISE: Jeff Cyr remarked that Samuel Bernash is up for his 6 month step raise. Jeff noted that he has been a great fit for the Department and a hard worker. After a brief discussion Evelyn R. Mikuszewski made a motion to give Samuel Bernash a step raise from \$23.61 to \$25.13 an hour. This motion was seconded by William L. Schenker. Motion Carried
- WATER QUALITY  
FORUM 4-27-19: Jeff Cyr noted that the MWRA will be coming to South Hadley on April 27, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. to conduct a water quality forum at town hall. Both Districts will place a notice in their respective water bills to inform their ratepayers. Our next Bill goes out April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- BUDGET FOR NEXT  
MEETING: Jeff Cyr notified the Board that he has heard from the MWRA to carry a 2% increase over last year for water purchase for the next fiscal year budget. He also noted that he was notified by Cary Jubinville of Jubinville Insurance that our Insurance rates may increase 2 to 3% for next year. Jeff will report the proposed budget at the next Board meeting for discussion and vote at the next meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- MOTION TO ADJOURN: William L. Schenker made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Evelyn R. Mikuszewski. Motion Carried
- ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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William L. Schenker, Clerk