

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
144 NEWTON STREET
South Hadley, Ma 01075

Minutes April 2, 2024

Location: South Hadley Library – 2 Canal St. South Hadley, MA 01075

Attendance: Bruce Perron, John Wojciechowski, Kurt Schenker, Kari Scytkowski

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Bruce.

Chief's Report

March 2024

45 fire calls

212 EMS calls

Total: 257

Year-to-date

131 fire calls

581 EMS calls

Total: 712

Inspections:

21 business inspections

7 smoke/COs

4 lockboxes

4 oil burners/propane

Events:

Marched in St. Patrick's Day parade.

Did a chemical spill/hazardous roundtable exercise with E Ink.

Kids and Rigs event at the Whiskey Barrel.

Attended the DLTA meeting.

House numbering initiative.

South Hadley Commission on Disabilities is applying for a grant for South Hadley High School. It has to do with the fire lane and having access from the school to the football school. They have asked Chief to write a letter in support of the grant.

Bruce asks Chief if he is aware that the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting grant proposals through April for the municipal vulnerability preparedness program action grant. Bruce will forward the information to Chief, and he will take a look at it.

Chief mentions he would like to do painting in the firehouse.

Chief also mentions that Western Mass Chiefs has an ambulance survey out right now. Once he gets the data in, he will pass it onto the Prudential Committee.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report

Kari has been trying to get materials ready for the annual report.

Open enrollment for health insurance and dental is going to be April 22 – May 17. She sent out a “save the date” email and put a notice on her door.

Kari reached out to PVPA and reserved the date of 5/23 at 6pm for the annual meeting. She mentions that articles have to be in 35 days before the meeting. She asks if the Prudential Committee if they want her to reach out to the senior center or high school for a backup date. Bruce asks her to reach out to both.

Kari also mentions that she gave them a couple of proposed bylaw changes for the annual meeting. Brief discussion about the best way to proceed.

DLTA (District Local Technical Assistance) meeting up-date of shared services discussion, last meeting 3-28-2024

Bruce asks Kari if anything went on at the DLTA meeting that she thinks should be brought up to everybody. She said she feels it is a better question for Chief Stark.

Chief notes that they are still in the fact-finding stages of everything and that this past meeting was related to budgets.

Missy Couture Rimbold (Assessors office) presentation correlation of budget and tax rates

Missy gives a presentation discussing valuation administration and reconciliation as well as district tax administration. She touches on items such as district designations, the valuation timeframe, budget vs. levy, town vs. district budgeting, funding sources, district appropriations, and tax rate setting process.

Mitch M.-Citizen up date- inquiries of new fire station

Discussion about possibilities for new fire station, including discussion about whether it is possible to expand current station.

Budget Discussion

Elections Equipment and Expenses - \$14,500 due to needing new tabulators.

Decreased admin salary, admin telephone, and admin office expense.

Kari asks if they still want to make a line item for new fire station account, which would be a capital account. Discussion about the process necessary to do that.

Legal Fees Union Negotiations – Bruce suggests \$5,000 gets raised

Air Compressor Acct – Bruce suggests free cash

Building Improvement – Bruce suggests raise

From Major Equipment Repair down to Ambulance Infusion Pumps, Bruce suggests free cash

Fire Truck Principal – raise
Fire Truck Interest – raise
Fire Stabilization – free cash
Vehicle Stabilization – raise
New Fire Station – raise
OPEB – raise
Ambulance stabilization – free cash
Ambulance Wages – ambulance reserve
Administrative & elected official wages - \$100,000 free cash, \$6,741 from other
Fire Department Operating Expense - \$375,000 raise

Other total: \$44,563
Use of free cash: \$421,338
Ambulance reserve \$1,263,000

Budget will be revisited.

Reorganize Board

John motions for the board to have Kurt as the chair and Bruce as the clerk. Bruce amends John's motion to make John the chair, Kurt the clerk, and himself the member. John respectfully declines the chair at this time. John reiterates that he is comfortable with Kurt being the chair due to his prior knowledge and experience. After discussion, Bruce says the current recommendation is as follows: Kurt – chair, John – clerk, and Bruce – member.

All ballots read Kurt – chair, John – clerk, and Bruce – member, so after the meeting closes tonight, those changes will take effect.

Motion to Adjourn

John moves to adjourn, Bruce seconds. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shauna Condon, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer