

Notice of PUBLIC Meeting
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING WITH
WATER COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
144 Newton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Date and Time: November 28, 2022 @ 4:30 pm
Location: South Hadley Council on Aging
45 Dayton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

NOTE: Not all topics listed in this notice may be reached for discussion. In addition, the items listed are those which the Chairman reasonably expects will be discussed as of the date and time of this notice. Votes may be taken on any agenda item listed below. Meeting will be recorded.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS

1. Ambulance adjustments
2. Dry hydrant recommendation Ken Beliveau, Steve Blaney

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE/BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONER ITEMS

1. Cell phone provider dispute
2. Treasurers pay dispute
3. Special meeting warrant issues
4. Any outstanding public records complaints
5. Authority of boards to hire legal council
6. A general process moving forward for identifying and addressing issues before action is taken
7. Motion to adjourn

Posting locations:

Outside bulletin board, SH Fire District No. 1 Headquarters
SH Water Dept. No. 1 Headquarters
SH Town Hall
South Hadley Council on Aging
www.shdistrict1.org
www.southhadley.org

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
AND PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE
JOINT MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 2022

REGULAR MEETING: The joint meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners and Prudential Committee was held at the 45 Dayton Street Senior Center on Monday, November 28, 2022. Prudential Chair Bruce Perron called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was video recorded on South Hadley Community Channel 15 TV at https://vimeo.com/shctv15?embedded=false&source=owner_name&owner=1326098

ATTENDANCE: Prudential Committee:
Chairman Bruce Perron
Clerk John Wojciechowski
Associate Member Kenneth Beliveau
Legal Counsel Brendan Hughes
Water Commission:
Chairman Brian S. McClaffin
Clerk R. Scott Williams
Associate Member William Schenker

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE:

AMBULANCE
ADJUSTMENTS: Bruce Perron announce there are ambulance adjustments for September and October. John Wojciechowski made a motion to adjust the ambulance amounts for September 2022 for \$207,776.43 and October 2022 for \$232,986.50. This motion was seconded by Kenneth Beliveau. Motion Carried

DRY HYDRANT RECOMMENDATION

KEN BELIVEAU,
STEVE BLANEY: Resident Steve Blaney stated that he is from River Road and has been working with Kenneth Beliveau to get some fire protection on River Road as there is no fire protection currently. Steve Blaney said that there are about 50 homes without fire protection and are about a mile from where the water service ends on River Road. Steve Blaney noted that they looked a few different options of getting hydrant service down the road, one possibility is drafting water from the river called dry hydrant. There are problems with a dry hydrant from the river as the river fluctuated and as a lot of silt and debris that could damage District equipment. Another option would be a Pfister, which is a big tank of water that is buried in the ground the Fire Department would draft water from the Pfister. A third option is running a water line down to the homes, but the estimated costs were well over a million dollars. A fourth option would be the District getting a tanker truck like Granby does. Ken Beliveau spoke about a resident he knows who put in a Pfister and the costs were about \$60,000 without the purchase of land or engineering costs. Ken said there is still some investigating to do before a decision is made. Bruce Perron said it looks like a Pfister system or tanker truck would be the best options & then a special meeting for funding would need to take place. Bruce said someone mentioned that Holyoke Gas & Electric might have a piece of

property in that area they may allocate to the District for a Pfister. Ken Beliveau said he can contact Holyoke Gas & Electric about the property.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE/BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS:

CELL PHONE

PROVIDER DISPUTE:

Bruce Perron stated the confusion is coming from what each District Board has authority over and what to do this is what we are trying to solidify. There has been a rift between the boards not the departments, we are all one district. Bruce said every department is represented here tonight. There are 3 departments in the District, Fire, Water and Treasurer. Bruce read regarding the Prudential Committee authority, our position is Massachusetts General Laws provides the Water Board with the authority to manage the water systems subject to our By-Laws that provide the Prudential Committee has general oversight of the district, the cell phone carrier decision is a district wide decision and that impacts savings over the entire district. Bruce continued that the rules regarding how and when the cell phones are used and carrying out the Water Board functions are in the purview of the Water Board not what company provides cell phone service to the district. If there is specific and good face business related reasons why the money spent on Verizon are beneficial to the actual running of the water system, please identify them for the Prudential Committee and they will be happy to discuss further. That letter was sent to the Water Board on May 19, 2022 along with more information, the reason the Prudential went with T-Mobile was basically economics. It was brought to them by a member of one Water Board's recommendation and the difference is one cell phone is \$40 one is \$10. Brian McClafin stated Bruce has cited by-laws but are not looking at the actual facts like the fact that the Water Board has voted twice to stay with Verizon, we are one district but two departments with 2 different budgets. Brian said the Water Board has had multiple meetings about this and Bruce has chosen to disregard what the Water Board has decided and voted. Brian stated the Water Board felt Verizon was best for the department, and tested the T-Mobile phones in areas where they need to have service and the cell service was non-existent in an important location. Brian stated Bruce keeps talking about a cost savings but costs are not always the most important, this year alone the Water Department has saved over \$200,000 by installing our own water mains with our own employees doing the work and you're talking about \$30 for a cell phone bill. Brian stated the cell phones we've had for over 20 years, the water department has a Ludlow facility, Quabbin locations not just coverage here in town. Brian said the Prudential never asked the water board about new cell phones, they just did it and then when the water board voted to stay with Verizon twice Prudential just took over the Verizon account and imported the Verizon numbers into the T-Mobile phones leaving the Water Department without service for the residents. Because of this the Water Department went out and got new Verizon phones and numbers only to have the Prudential not send out the checks to pay these Verizon bills. Brian stated every month the Water Board has signed warrants to pay these Verizon bills (\$129.96) and they were withheld from being sent, then they were sent out but we were told not again. Just recently the Water Department Communication account was charged \$402.00 for T-Mobile phones we don't have and the Water Commissioners did not sign off on. Brian stated the Prudential wants us to pay T-Mobile while we still have Verizon phones, the T-Mobile charges were never

authorized by the Water Board, who authorizes the budget. Attorney Brendan Hughes said this has been spoken about at several meetings and there is some language in the Mass General laws in his opinion that presents a grey area, he suggested getting together to create a memorandum of agreement between the two Boards where they figure out an action plan to resolve the issues. Brendan stated it is senseless for lawsuits to be filed spending legal fees fighting this. Brendan said the District by-laws state the Prudential has general oversight of the District subject to lawful by-laws and subject to Mass General Laws that give the Water Board the oversight and charge of the water supply. Those two definitions are going to come into conflict with certain day to day items and the best way to approach that would be to have some sort of agreement that the Prudential Committee will not take any action that will impact the Water Board without the Water Board being allowed to provide feedback and state its case for why its directly related to the water supply and related to their jurisdiction. Brendan suggested in regards to the cell phones a member of each board along with the Superintendent should go out and test those issues and if there is a demonstration that it is affecting the running of the Water Department then there should be room for a fair agreement even if that includes the departments having different carriers. Brendan feels that there is no legal way of enforcing this without the Boards filing legal actions against one another, which would be senseless. Brendan said he has reached out to various agencies and their advice was there needs to be an agreement between the two Boards. Brendan said they will not issue any legal form of a binding conclusion or opinion about this issue. Brian McClafin responded that he agrees with Brendan however in the history of the District there has never been an issue with the Water Board being able to have oversight of the Water Department and the Prudential has always overseen the Fire and Clerk/Treasurer offices. Brian stated the Superintendent is the department head and signs off on all the bills and the Boards approves them. Bill Schenker spoke that there is one District, Water, Fire and Ambulance Service and we have one of the best Ambulance services in the Commonwealth of Mass. Bill stated he has been on the Board for 37 years and has worked with 8 other Commissioners, male and female, 4 Superintendents and it's just been in the past couple of years that things have gotten contentious. Bill said in past the Boards would only meet once or twice a year and usually it was during budget time to discuss what pay raise would be considered for employees, now the Fire Dept. has a union so they rarely meet. Bill has met with Atty Brendan Hughes in the past and agrees that a memorandum would be beneficial only if the responsibilities are spelled out for the Water Commissioners and Prudential Committee so we can avoid these issues. Bill Schenker said he voted against T-Mobile phones because an employee had poor communication in a pertinent area. That was good enough for him and employee safety is the most important. Bill stated there is no reason to have a Water Board if they are going to be subordinate to the Prudential Committee and have no power, get rid of the Water Board if that's the case. Bill spoke if a memorandum can't be agreed upon the he will get a petition to the people to have the by-laws changed to spell out the two Boards responsibilities. Scott agreed that we need to have an agreement between the two Boards and asked Bill why when the phone lines were shut off why did we not grab the phones with the numbers that everyone is complaining about and try the phones out. Scott Williams stated everyone has been trying to make him look bad because he is trying to save some money. Scott has better service with his T-Mobile phones. Scott expressed his

anger with the whole situation. Brendan said we are trying to be efficient with our time and not rehash this issue. Bill Schenker said he doesn't like something shoved down the Boards throats and wants to bring some reconciliation between the Boards and it will most likely be the people who vote to change the responsibilities of both Boards. Brendan Hughes recommends if amendable that a member of each Board meet with the Superintendent and review the phones and if there are any issues between the two and that should resolve it. Going forward there should be a memorandum of agreement how to address future issues so it doesn't get to this point. Brendan suggested a good faith effort to do the memorandum and it be done on an interim basis, maybe every 90 or 120 days and if that doesn't work maybe go another route. Bill Schenker mostly agrees with Brendan but what if a different issue comes up then we are going wind up with the same principal, who is in charge of what. Bruce Perron said he agrees that all the Water Board members had merit and Bill is accurate that we do need a determination of what our responsibilities are. Bruce doesn't feel it needs a by-law change, there just needs to be an understanding. Bruce would like to pick a delegate from each Board. Bruce stated the 3 departments are the Fire Chief, the Treasurer and Water Board and these are the 3 heads. Bruce stated all the departments are not created equal. Bruce showed the Fire Department diagram with 28 people who report to the Fire Chief who only reports to Prudential for budget purposes only and he is in charge of the Fire Department. Bruce then stated the Water Department has 7 employees, they report to the Superintendent, Jeff Cyr and he reports to the Water Commissioners, who is the department head. Brian McClafin stated that Jeff Cyr *is* the department head he prepares the budget and makes the day-to-day decisions for the Water Department and Bruce you are saying that he is not the department head, you are wrong, the Water Board is elected. Brian agrees with the mediation but asked Bruce if he could release the Verizon Wireless payments that have been withheld so the department doesn't lose their cell phones *again*. Bruce stated the T-Mobile cell phones are in the building if you'd like to take them. Brendan Hughes recommends the District pay their outstanding financial obligations to Verizon Wireless until this can be straightened out. Brendan Hughes suggested each Board develop a list of specific items that are within their purview and authority and it should be brought to the attention of each board and discuss and develop a memorandum of agreement that identifies issues of potential disputes so this can be put to bed once and for all.

TREASURERS PAY DISPUTE:

Brian McClafin stated the Water Department budget had passed at the Annual Meeting by the people including a line item for the Water's portion of the Clerk/Treasurers salary inclusive of a 2% raise for both the employees and Clerk/Treasurer and the Fire Department gave a 4% raise. The weekly warrants that are being produced to pay the Treasurer has the water portion reflecting 4% raise and not a 2% raise so eventually the line item for the budget will run out of money. Attorney Brendan Hughes interjected that all the Annual Meeting warrants he has seen did not specify what the percentage of raise in regards to the Treasurer/Clerk and for the first time ever there was a disagreement between the Water and Prudential percentages. Brendan referred to an agreement from 2018 that says the Water will pay 25% of the Treasurers pay and Prudential 75%. Brian stated that what was voted on in a Water Board meeting it was specified 2% raise for employees and 2% raise for the Treasurer. Brian explained that on the Annual

Meeting warrant there is a specific budget line item that reflects a 2% raise for the Clerk/Treasurer. Brendan said he thinks the confusion comes into play because the 2% was not spelled out on the actual Annual Meeting warrant. Brendan doesn't think that much time needs to be spent on this, as the District as a whole pays her full salary no matter who pays what. Brendan said if there is an issue moving forward if the Water Board decides to give a different percentage to the Clerk/Treasurer to specify the reasons why tied to specific performance and this be the policy going forward this will avoid potential liability for claims of discrimination. Bruce Perron and Brian McClafin both agreed to pause and have a discussion in a meeting and add to the memorandum.

SPECIAL MEETING
WARRANT ISSUES:

Attorney Brendan Hughes stated he has been part of several emails regarding the Special Meetings and warrants and he wanted to give all a chance to discuss. This was just a part of a list that he put together as a draft list. Brian McClafin said it was brought up to address the Special Meeting that was done for the retirement money and an extra weekly pay for Clerk/Treasurer and there was a discussion as to whether it was done correctly and for the Water side there was more monies taken out than was voted on by the people and in the budget. Bruce Perron said the meeting Brian is referring to was a District Special meeting and the way the vote went everything passed except for some transfer of funds the verbiage said something like appropriate and it should have said transfer. Bruce stated that got tabled and it will be put on another District meeting agenda.

ANY OUTSTANDING
PUBLIC RECORDS
COMPLAINTS:

Bruce Perron said there are District complaints by a resident and they put the State on notice for this. Brendan Hughes said there was a records request by a resident for 5 years' worth of cell phone data with regard to Water Department phones. There was a response that was given and there was an appeal to that response and the Supervisor of Public Records is seeking clarity for a question that was posed on one of the bills it that were provided to the resident there was 288 text messages and gif files and to date the District has not identified why those files are public record or in possession of the Fire District. Right now, the Supervisor of Public Records is saying we need an answer on this otherwise they are going to have to look at enforcement options. The enforcement options are one of 2 things, the requestor could pursue legal action with regard to what he deems as the unfulfilled records request and that would go to Superior Court. Superior Court would take a look at what our legal position is and depending on what our legal position is they would potentially do a court order to look at the documents and they may do an in-house inspection as to whether those documents were public record or should be or held exempt under some privacy exemption. In the event the District is liable, they would potentially be assessed a fine and pay all reasonable fees and court expenses. Brendan said the other way it could come to light is if the Supervisor of Public Records referred it to the Attorney Generals office and then the Attorney Generals office would then institute a suit and have essentially the same legal compliance powers minus reasonable Attorneys fees and costs because it would be a government agency. So, the question here is to the extent that we've provided everything that is responsive confirm that and explain why the 288 text messages and gifs are either not in our possession or not valid

public records, otherwise we are not technically compliant with the request to the Supervisor of Public Records. Brian McClafin explained that they have gotten the request and filed with the Clerk/Treasurer and a letter to the state that we don't have access to our own cell phone records because we are not administrators anymore since the cell phone numbers were ported into T-Mobile. A year and a half prior to Prudential going to T-Mobile the Water Departments administrative rights were taken away from the Water Department by the Clerk/Treasurer via direction of the Prudential Committee. So, the Office Manager and Superintendent were no longer able to access any of the records. When the phones were shut off, they converted them over to T-Mobile and the Water Department no longer had access to the phones or any records. Brian stated he provided the 5 months of phone records for the new Verizon phones to the resident and wrote him a letter stating the prior cell phone records we were unable to obtain because we don't have the phones any longer and have lost all administrative rights to them and he would have to go through the Clerk/Treasurer for them. Brendan Hughes said that whomever has the ability or the information to access the account technically to comply they have to be accessed and they need to be reviewed to determine whether or not they are public records or be redacted or removed all together because they fall under a privacy exemption. Bruce Perron stated he can clarify a couple of things what we are talking about is a past phone that is in the Treasurers office and they need a password to open the phone to get access to text messages and jpeg files. Bruce said unless the password is provided to open the phone, they cannot access the info on the phone. Brendan Hughes does not believe giving the password to the phone is going to get the Supervisor of Public Records to go away. Whoever has the ability to access the account should do that otherwise there could be legal action by the requestor or Attorney General's office if they care as the administrative agencies are overburdened and extremely inactive especially post covid. Brendan said the 2 Boards should put their heads together to figure out where the documents are and then be reviewed to be sure that nothing is being disclosed to any member of the public that it should be privately protected. Bruce will add it to his list of things both Board members should talk about and said he will protect privacy and stand up for each and every District member.

AUTHORITY OF BOARDS TO HIRE LEGAL COUNCIL:

Bruce Perron made a position statement that the Boards should be able to hire their own legal council when they have an issue that is indictive only of that department. Bruce said they have hired general council that takes care of our District. The procedure for doing that would be for any issue that comes up contact the general council, if general council has the ability or within the office to handle the issue then that would go onto a separate hire and it would be a discussion with general council. Other than that Bruce fully agrees if there is a specific issue that our general council cannot handle absolutely, they should go outside and get other council. Bruce stated that has been proven in the District before. Bruce state the Sullivan, Hayes & Quinn are now the general council for the District. Brian McClafin explained that again the Prudential Committee took a position to hire a new lawyer for the whole District without including the Water Board in the discussion or the decision. Brian stated that for over 20+ years the District and Water Department has had one legal council and has been very happy with them and they are familiar with the Water processes and it is easy to just call up and ask for help or advice. Brian said if the Water Board has to call the

Prudential to have a chat to then call the District legal council to turn around and say another legal council is needed. Brian gave an example that the Water Department had an issue with Go Daddy expiring for the water website in order for customers to pay their water bills and we were able to call Attorney Beauregard and get the legal paperwork done in a quick timely manner in order not to disrupt customers being able to pay their bills online. Bruce was upset and wanted to know why Brian didn't call him to get approval. Brian stated that the Board of Water Commissioners voted to keep Attorney Beauregard as their legal council and Attorney Beauregard sent the Prudential Chair, Bruce Perron a letter stating that and there was no response. Bruce stated that is not true, but the response came from District council. Brian said the Water Board is elected to oversee the budgetary process of the Water Department and Prudential is elected to oversee the Fire side along with the District and certain avenues, but not all of them. Bruce said that is incorrect and the by-laws state the Prudential has direct oversight. Brian said no they say general oversight not direct oversight. Bruce said yes you are correct it is general oversight over the entire district. Bruce said the District council is our District council and the procedure in his opinion is if it can't be handled in house then bring it to the District council and if you need a separate entity for legal assistance then absolutely then seek one, he supports that. Brendan Hughes said that he thinks Attorney Beauregard would agree that the history is that there is one Attorney for the District to represent both. Brendan thinks that if there are things specific to the Water Board and we are trying to enter into a MOA then there should be something in that memorandum of agreement that identifies the legal issues that are specific to the Water Board and to be wrapped into the agreement. Brendan wants everyone to act responsibly and be tasked with their duties as public officials and to have to never have another meeting like this one. Bruce will add this onto his list.

GENERAL PROCESS MOVING FORWARD

FOR IDENTIFYING ISSUES: Bruce Perron believes they have just identified this by agreeing to get together to create a memorandum of agreement. Bruce thinks a couple people from each Board. John Wojciechowski asked if this is going to be done in a closed executive session or open meeting because there are a lot of different issues that need to be addressed. Brendan suggested each Board meet with legal council and once the issues have been narrowed down, they can actually get an agreement together and then have another meeting with a document that has some teeth to it and at that point it can be discussed again that is his recommendation. Bruce asked John Wojciechowski if he could be part of this process and John said he doesn't have that time to dedicate to it. Brendan suggested the Boards meet separately after this meeting to discuss specifics. William Schenker asked Brendan how a memorandum of agreement stands up against the by-laws. Brendan said as long as they are not in conflict with the by-laws they should stand. William Schenker would like to define the responsibility of each Board. William Schenker apologized for any behavior that might have offended anyone including himself, and the people are the ones that have the final say in any changes. William said he has enjoyed his time on the Board for the past 37 years, he really does not want to give it up but in 2 more years he will be 88 and would like someone who really cares about the District both water and fire to run for his seat, so give it some thought.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Resident Bruce Forcier said he is the one who filed the freedom of information act back in August and the Secretary of State's office ruled on Sept. 16th that you needed to provide the records. He has been jerked around and would like results. Also, Jean Perry the investigator for the state ethics commission is also interested in seeing this information because there is a huge potential of violation of the state ethics commission. Bruce would like a date as to when he can expect the records he has asked for and when this will be complete. Attorney Brendan Hughes responded that you are asking for 5 years, and to the extent that they are able to uncover them and look through them that is going to take a very long time. Brendan said that it is going to take some time and they are being completely transparent by discussing it in this open meeting. Bruce Perron said he understands his frustration and are working diligently with it and access is not easy. Bruce Forcier said he has text messages when he was on selectboard about his sprinkler business and others have too. Bill Schenker responded to Mr. Forcier that he called the state ethics commission yesterday and spoke to the Attorney, he can give Bruce Forcier his name if he'd like. Bill was told that it's up to the party who is in question and is involved to request it, he doesn't feel that they've done anything wrong.

RESIDENT QUESTIONS:

Resident Mitch Malinowski asked if the Water Department has phones in their budget, then why aren't the Verizon wireless phones being paid, they are in arrears for 2 months. Bruce Perron said the Verizon wireless bill he is referring to was established without permission and a new account with the old account number. Brendan Hughes said this issue was already discussed and they are going to pay the cell phone bills until an agreement can be reached. Mitch has another question about when someone is salary then the salary is for the whole year why then how does one come up with an extra week pay. Bruce Perron stated Mitch is off topic.

Resident Pauline McClafin wants all of the Boards to think about that these issues are hinging on one person Mr. Perron suggesting that they have control over the entire district. Our by-laws are clear, we have a Water Board to take care of the business of the Water and a Prudential to help with the Fire and general oversight we are talking land in the District. Why is it so important that we all have to have the same telephone the same council, each department has a better report with one service or the other. Are we telling everyone in the District that we are in fact saving a ton of money. Each Department brings in their own money and each Department needs to determine how that money is spent. And that is what we as residents need the Boards to take care of so this is not hashed out 7, 8 or 9 times in these meetings. It boils down to one person thinking he is in charge of everything. Each one department is responsible for their own money and you are trying to take charge of all the monies. The crowd applauds. Mr. Perron said the Water Board is in charge of the water system that is the infrastructure and that's what the MGL's say. Bruce referred to a letter that was sent to the Water Board that if they try the phones and they don't work, then bring it back and they will adjust, but try it first, but there has been no try. Pauline said she has been to all these meetings and heard that the cell phones were tried and that Bruce lied about it and she was there when the Water Board vote twice to stay with Verizon based on this information. Pauline said that Bruce Perron stated that the test was inaccurate and knew they voted twice to stay with Verizon and you still took the phones and ported them

into T-Mobile and now they are stuck with brand new phones and new numbers. Pauline doesn't want to discuss this anymore she would like it to be resolved and we have by-laws and no one is using them. Bruce said they are looking to move forward and the 6 Board members need to agree. Pauline said so many meetings have happened and it has not been resolved.

Resident Al Zuffoletti thinks the only way to resolve this is to change the by-laws. He thinks that the Prudential Board is trying to use their authority to try and control the Water Board unjustly the Water Department is doing a fine job and saving the residents money, just leave them alone to do their job. Al stated that in a previous meeting Bruce Perron stated that the T-Mobile phone are working just fine and never talked to anyone about the phones. Al said he doesn't understand the Water has a budget the Fire has a budget and they have a budgeted item for their phones are doing fine so leave them alone. Bruce Perron said he doesn't want to get into the specific of their budget but there are concerns that they have discussed with their accountant and that could be part of the discussion that is had. Al said it isn't about the money it is if they work and Bruce did a study and said they work and the Water Dept did a study and said they don't. Bruce Perron said to please show them where it doesn't work.

Resident Mary Lou Guarnera of District 1 said this entire argument has cost more money than there is in savings of these T-Mobile phones. Mary Lou said it is time to let go of the dictator syndrome and let Water manage their finances and stop trying to get in their way. Bruce Perron said it is a matter of interpretation and that interpretation is going to carry forward in their meetings, we need to figure out how to fix the rift and have to communicate. Mary Lou said you are an expert in circular talking and are going cost the residents a tremendous amount of money, the taxes are going up 13% because of the Prudential board. Bruce thinks it went down a half percent he has to check.

Resident Peter Jesinowski who lives in District 2 if he is allowed to speak, he spent a long time as a call man in District 1. Peter has been involved with a lot of people in the room tonight and the Boards and for a long time the 2 Boards have coexisted and there was harmony. We need to get back to that and find some common ground. In general, not finding that common ground in honoring those that served in the past is doing a disservice and we need to keep moving in a forward in a positive direction. Peter said for him for years when he was part of the Fire Dept. when they bought things they needed air packs, trucks, tires what ever it may be, they took the opinion of the people in the field, it wasn't just about dollars. He gets it times are tight for everyone today, but when it comes to public safety a phone is now part of that public safety. Dollars shouldn't always be first; it is what does it best for the Department and public safety saving money isn't the end all. Peter suggesting listening to the men and women that are out there using the products, because they know if it works. Peter remembers when they needed new air packs they came to the workers and asked what worked best for them and they liked brand A not B. Bruce responded that if there is another option and would look at both options and put a market value on it.

Resident Rich Marion of District 1 said he has worked with this Water Department for 50 years and he has never seen a better run Water Department in his lifetime than what we have right now with the Commissioners and the Superintendent. Rich would like this pettiness stopped, let them do their job and they do a wonderful job, the best run department in his 50 years. Bruce said Rich is qualified to say this as he owned a large construction business in town and he is

a friend and Bruce thinks he's right but what's happening now is there is a difference of opinion for something that is minuscule to the District. Rich responded to Bruce to remember the minuscule part and stop making such a big deal about it. Rich said he has heard from Bruce to stop pointing fingers but as far as he is concerned the Prudential are the ones pointing the fingers. Bruce said they are trying to protect some people.

Resident Julie Gentile wanted to clarify something with Brendan Hughes on the 2% raises. When the Prudential Board approved the 4% raises, they put it in dollars not percent and when the Water Department approved the 2% in the Annual Meeting warrant, they put it in dollars and not percent. Even though it wasn't said 4% for Prudential it went through and because the Water Departments 2% was not stated in percent, that can't go through? Can you explain please. Brendan Hughes said he didn't like her tone, Julie said she is just asking a question. Brendan said based on review of all the warrants back to 2018 it has been allocated as a 25% portion of the total figure. Brendan looked at the last document in isolation compared to previous documents that is all he was stating is that it was different. Based on that information he thought there was some confusion and there need to be communication between the 2 Boards.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

John Wojciechowski made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Brian McClafin and Kenneth Beliveau Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS



R. Scott Williams, Clerk