

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

144 NEWTON STREET

South Hadley, MA 01075

Minutes: December 2, 2025

Location: South Hadley Council on Aging

Attendance: Kurt Schenker, John Wojciechowski, Steven Blaney

Call to Order

The Prudential Committee meeting was called to order by the Kurt at 6:03 PM

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

No meeting minutes were available for review or approval at this meeting.

Approval of Ambulance Adjustments, Vote on Acceptance

John motioned to approve the ambulance adjustments for the month of October 2025 in the amount of **\$309,517.28**. Steve seconded. Unanimously passed.

Chief's Report, and Vote on Acceptance

- **November Call Volume:**
 - Fire Calls: **36**
 - EMS Calls: **220**
 - Total Calls: **256**
- **Year-to-Date Call Volume:**
 - Fire Calls: **535**
 - EMS Calls: **2,311**
 - Total Calls: **2,846**
- **Inspections:**

- Business Inspections: **14**
- Smoke / CO Inspections: **11**
- **Personnel Updates:**
 - Resignation received from Jocelyn Dennett from full-time permanent staff to the call department.
 - Interviews for the open full-time position began yesterday.
- **Regional Dispatch:**
 - Conducted site visits to Westfield, Westcomm, and Chicopee two weeks prior.
 - Awaiting additional cost and system buildout information.
 - The first 3 years under a potential agreement would cover startup costs, leaving the District responsible for funding starting in year 4.
 - Target timeline for transition is 8 months to 1 year.
- **Grants & Events:**
 - Had a pinning ceremony
 - Participated in Sand for Seniors with TRIAD.
 - Secured a \$50,000 state grant for radios/repeaters.
 - Christmas Party scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 at Ebenezer's starting at 6:00 PM.

Steve motioned to accept the Chief's Report as read. John seconded. Unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report, and Vote on Acceptance

- **Hampshire County Retirement Trust:** Voted to appoint The HILB Group as interim consultant/director. Next meeting in 2 weeks.
- **Positive Pay Fraud Prevention:**
 - Used Positive Pay to intercept a fraudulent check for \$9,000 made out to "Jared Williams" (originally issued to Freightliner of Hartford).
 - Check was entirely recreated with errors (e.g., misspelled as "Headley").
 - Positive Pay prevented payment; original check was voided and reissued. Police report to be filed.
- **Upcoming District Meeting Schedule:**

- Special District Meeting: January 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM (regular meeting following).
- Annual District Meeting: April 8, 2026 (warrant articles due March 3, 2026).

John motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Steve seconded. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Special Meeting Warrant

The committee reviewed the warrant articles for the Special District Meeting on January 6, 2026:

- **Article 1:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Health and Life Insurance Account to cover unanticipated increases in insurance premiums or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended amount: \$100,000, or a lesser or greater amount.
- **Article 2:** To see if the District will vote to transfer from available surplus, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the Water – Health Dental Life Insurance Account to cover unanticipated increases in insurance premiums or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended amount: \$4,000, or a lesser or greater amount.

John made a motion to accept the Special Meeting for January 6th as read by Kurt. Steve seconded. Passed unanimously.

New Business

No new business.

FY27 Budget Discussion

Discussion regarding ongoing preliminary budget planning and capital expenditures:

- **Tax Rate & Free Cash:**
 - Estimated FY26 tax rate projected at 1.89.
 - Free Cash: \$1,000,000
- **Apparatus & Vehicle Replacement:**
 - Lead time for new ambulances is currently 3 years (delivery expected Q1 2029 if contracted in spring 2026).
 - Estimated ambulance cost: \$450,000 to \$475,000.
 - Tower truck bond will be fully paid off in June 2028.
- **Facility Maintenance:**

- Bay floor refinishing project covers 4,000 sq ft in the apparatus bay plus 6 landings (landings estimated at \$7,000).
- Refinishing cost is \$25 per sq ft. Total floor project cost estimated between \$125,000 and \$130,000 including contingency.
- **Operational Expenses:**
 - Contractual salary increases averaging 3%.
 - Utilities increase of \$3,000.
 - Office expense increase of \$2,000.
 - Uniforms increase of \$900.
 - Fire equipment increase of \$2,000
 - Training increase of \$1,000
 - Fire prevention increase of \$500
 - Cascade system line item to decrease due to new warranty coverage.
 - The \$50,000 radio grant will offset capital radio requests.

Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for January 06, 2026.

John motioned to adjourn. Steve seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:52PM.