

**Thursday, January 2 2020 – 6:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Water Department Meeting Room**

**438 Granby Rd**

**South Hadley, MA 01075**

**In Attendance:** PC Chair Bruce Perron, PC Clerk Kevin Taugher, PC member John Wojciechowski, BOWC Clerk R. Scott Williams, BOWC member Stephanie Wall, Interim Clerk/Treasurer Ira Brezinsky, Chief Robert Authier, Water Superintendent Jeffrey Cyr, Water Dept Office Manager Jennifer Fernandes, Assistant Treasurer Kari Scytowski, District Moderator and Counsel Mark Beauregard

**CALL TO ORDER**

Perron called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**JOINT MEETING PRUDENTIAL  
MEMBERS: DISCUSSION  
ABOUT ORGANIZATIONAL  
STRUCTURE AND POLICIES  
OF THE DISTRICT:**

**JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE  
AND POLICIES OF THE DISTRICT**

Bruce H. Perron opened up the discussion handing out papers with a large triangle drawn on it asking the Boards to draw what they think the District structure is. (See Note 1). Bruce then handed out a printout of the Massachusetts General Laws Part I, Title VII, Chapter 48, Section 71 regarding Prudential Committee, selection and duties (See Note 2). Bruce then continued to talk about what we as a District including the Boards would like for the future. He asked if we would like to continue with the two Boards we currently have or do we want to combine the Boards into one larger Board. Bruce then referred to the Mass Gen. Laws worksheet where it states "Such districts shall *choose* a Prudential Committee" & "shall *choose* a Treasurer". Bruce continued on to ask do we want to choose a Treasurer or do we want to elect a Treasurer and do we want one Board for the District or do we want to continue status quo? Kevin E. Taugher noted that in order for us as a District to change the elect to appointment of a Treasurer we would need to bring it to the people for a vote and then change the by-laws at an Annual meeting. Mark Beauregard stated that according to the statute both Boards run separately and each Board is responsible for the day to day activities and decisions and Prudential is in charge of the land the Water Dept. has. Stephanie Wall noted that this is the first she has heard about changing how the Boards are structured. Bruce Perron then spoke about the District Boards being severed and lacking cohesion and would like to have a more open communication between Boards. Scott Williams recognized resident Ed Wall. Ed Wall stated he understands where the Board are coming from as he was once on the Prudential Board and served several years as Chair. Ed Wall stated the Prudential Committee has broken the unity of the Boards of the District and he feels as though the Water Board has not been included in a couple of major global decisions the Prudential Committee has made. One of the decisions is the changing of Health Insurance for new incoming Board members. Ed Wall noted he has never experienced a Prudential Committee member blasting a Water Board member in this 30+ years of being a part of this District. After a heated discussion amongst the members regarding the

Health Insurance being removed for new Board members Attorney Mark Beauregard suggested we table the discussion as the Insurance is still under a cloud of litigation. Mr. Wall continued to say that the Water Board should ask why the Prudential Board would have been kept out of these major global policy changes? Is this what we want to do or should we work together. Mark Beauregard stated this meeting is not to debate specific issues and we can't change the past, we should be moving forward. Bruce Perron opened up the discussion of the snow storm we had on December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and the shoveling of the Fire Hydrants. Bruce stated his number one priority is the safety of the District and felt as though it took second place and would like a plan in place. Jeff Cyr asked Chief Bob Authier his feeling of how the two departments have worked together regarding the shoveling of the Fire Hydrants. Chief Authier stated he has been happy with the process in his almost 9 years of being with the District except with this last storm and wished the Water Department was faster with shoveling of the Hydrants. Jeff Cyr stated he will work with the Chief and will work out a system. Ed Wall suggested soliciting the input separately amongst the Boards to come up with a plan and then get the Boards together to put a policy in place.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Wojciechowski moved and Taugher seconded to adjourn at 7:21 PM. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A true copy, attest:

Ira Brezinsky  
District #1, Interim Clerk Treasurer

  
Kevin Taugher, Prudential Committee Clerk