

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

Minutes July 12, 2023

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

Attendance: Bruce Perron, Ken Beliveau John Wojciechowski, Kari Scytkowski

Call to order: 4:30pm.

Chief's Report

No Chief's report.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report

Last June, there was a special meeting about a prior year's unemployment bill that needed to be paid. It was voted down at the special meeting, and we are still getting bills monthly since it still hasn't been paid. The last bill, from June 08, 2023, is for \$8,809.36. Kari thinks we need a special meeting to get it paid.

She has tried contacting the unemployment office to see if she can get more information about why we have the bill, but she hasn't received an answer or been able to get a hold of anybody. At the special meeting, the motion to transfer the funds from the Fire Stabilization account was amended and voted on. Someone pointed out that it needed 9/10 of a vote for it to pass, but according to an MGL, that might not be the case due to that MGL applying to legally unenforceable bills.

Approval of Minutes

Bruce motions to accept the minutes from 03/08/2023 and 03/15/2023. Ken seconds.
Unanimous.

New Insurance Discussion

There was a change in dental plans from Guardian to Delta 1, which saves the district approximately 17.41%. There was a concern that nobody was notified about what their new amounts would be. Some were not notified of the change until they received their new cards in the mail. Kari notes that the notices would have gone out back in January 2023 when the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust decided to make the change to Delta. She also notes that open enrollment started in April, and notices should have gone out then. She says that she reached out to the Insurance Trust when she took office and asked if there is anything they needed to do regarding the insurance. She notes that nothing was changed without the Prudential Board's vote with the approval of the union. There is discussion about how to best disseminate the information going forward.

Cell Contracts Discussion

Bruce explains that on January 12th, they were notified by Sprint and T-Mobil that they were going to terminate occupancy on one of the district's water towers. Bruce says he hasn't heard anything, but it was due the end of last month.

Bruce notes he has reached out for a joint meeting and wants to wait for John to discuss what position they are going to take on the issue. Bruce and Ken are of the opinion that they don't change.

The Board will come back to this once John arrives at the meeting.

Questions

A member of the public says he thought that with the by-law changes that were voted on at the annual meeting that the Water Department was in charge of the water towers and anything on them. Bruce notes there is still a question about the by-law that lawyers are discussing.

A member of the public asks if the town works the same as a regular employer in terms of unemployment in that the town pays unemployment premiums. Bruce notes that the fire district is a separate entity from the town. The member of the public notes that there is still confusion about what the unemployment bill is for. She has experience in benefits and small business management, and she volunteers to help rectify the situation.

She also notes to include a plan comparison in the Delta communication so that people know what they had versus what they have now.

She also asks what kind of reports the district distributes at the year end. Bruce answers that they do not mail out any type of report, but that there will be an annual report at the annual meeting.

Kari notes that she emailed Leslie Hennessey about getting the meeting posted at the Council on Aging. Kari recommends removing "South Hadley Council on Aging" from the posting location section on the agendas.

Returning to Previous Items

John arrived, so the Board returns to items they were waiting on for John's input.

Bruce notes that he wants to find out if the Board is all on the same page with the contract with the people they were talking to about reducing the amount of payment received for the cell tower. The decision last time was to make no changes. Bruce notes that in the meantime, they asked for a second proposal including a buyout. They still agree it should be left the same.

New Business 24/28 Hours

No new business.

Motion to adjourn at 5:34pm by John. Second by Ken. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Shauna Condon, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer