

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

Minutes May 26, 2023

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

Meeting time: 4:30 pm. Bruce Perron announced that the meeting was being recorded.

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

Chief's Report

Bypassed since the Chief is away.

Clerk / Treasurers Report

March and April Comstar reconciliations.

For March 2023, motion by John to make ambulance adjustments in the sum of \$222,393.06.

Seconded by Ken. Motion unanimous.

For April 2023, motion by John to make ambulance adjustments in the sum of \$259,498.87.

Seconded by Ken. Motion unanimous.

Reorganization of the Board

Bruce asks if either Ken or John wants to volunteer for any one of the positions (Chair, Clerk, and Member). John notes that he feels the board setup should remain the same. Unanimous ballot taken. Board remains the same.

Certified Letter – Wetlands Protection Act

Notification came in about the Wetlands Protection Act. A Notice of Intent filed with the South Hadley Conservation Commission on May 17, 2023, seeking permission to remove, fill, dredge, or alter any areas subject to protection under the South Hadley Wetlands Bylaw. Bruce notes it puts the district on notice that work will be done “out here.”

Bill From Police Department

A bill came in from the Police Department for the police that were at the second district meeting at PVPA. A Sergeant and Officer were there for crowd control, and they escorted people out to their cars afterwards. Kari is inquiring about which account to pay the bill from. Bruce notes that the Prudential Committee expenses budget is down to \$135.61, so it will not be paid from there. He notes it could come from the Administration - Miscellaneous account or the Election Equipment and Expenses account. Bruce recommends using the Election Equipment and Expenses account. John motions to pay the police invoice for the annual meeting at PVPA that took place on May 17, 2023, from the Elections Equipment and Expenses account. Ken seconds. Motion unanimous.

New Business

Four minutes were not posted on the website but have since been posted. Three minutes will be done tonight, which will be posted. Bruce takes a motion to accept the minutes of April 06, 2023, February 24, 2023, and April 04, 2023, as posted and reviewed by the Board. John motions to accept all minutes as read by the Chair. Ken seconds. Motion unanimous.

Kari notes that she is still waiting to be added onto all the accounts, specifically Haydocy and T-Mobile. She explains that the emails for some bills are going to Terie, and that someone who is already on the accounts may need to get her added on. The Board discusses how to add Kari onto the Haydocy account.

Bruce explains that Kari will not be added as an administrator on the T-Mobile account. Kari objects that the Clerk/Treasurer is the CFO of the district. Bruce explains that the two chairs at the time (Bruce and Scott Williams) were put on the account, and they added the Clerk/Treasurer, who left. Bruce notes that he and Scott decided that they would be keeping the account under their administration. He also explains that while there is a FOIA request regarding the account, all the information needed to respond to the request is already accessible to Kari in her office. There is some discussion between Bruce and Kari about why there was an argument for the Clerk/Treasurer to be on the Verizon account but not the T-Mobile account. Bruce explains that the Clerk/Treasurer was added onto the Verizon account because the two administrators on the Verizon account were two employees and there were no elected officials. John agrees that he does not believe it would be a good idea to have Kari on the T-Mobile account given the current surrounding controversies. Ken agrees.

Legal Counsel

There is discussion about who is authorized to contact the district's legal counsel without approval from the Chair of the Water Board or Prudential Committee. Bruce explains that the Prudential Committee established a policy limiting who could contact the legal counsel. Comments from Bruce, John, Ken, and Kari. Ultimately, the discussion was unresolved, and there is still question about who can contact the legal counsel without Chair approval.

Kari noted that she already emailed Brendan about the T-Mobile issue. She also explains that she has not yet received any bills from Sullivan Hayes and Quinn.

Dental Insurance

Bruce explains that they were contacted on short notice to look at a new dental plan. They asked to put it off, and the insurance company agreed to put it off until at least the 1st of June. Currently, the district has Guardian insurance. Delta insurance is what is being proposed, in addition to MetLife. Bruce asks Kari to explain the facts of each of the plans.

Kari explains that the Delta plans are comparable to the current Guardian plan. She notes that both Delta plans have a higher deductible than the Guardian and MetLife plans. The Delta 1 plan would have a lower monthly cost than the current plan. While the Delta 2 plan would have a higher monthly cost, it has better coverage. They can switch after a year. The change from Guardian to Delta 1 would be a saving of \$9,677.16 and the change from Guardian to Delta 2 would be an increase of \$54.56.

John motions to change the dental insurance to Delta 1. Ken seconds. Unanimous.

Discussion amongst Board about what to look for in a future Fire Chief.

Question

Member of the public asks if all executive sessions must be run through legal counsel. Bruce says no, but he does anyway so that they are accurate in their reason for going into executive session.

Member of the public notes that it was previously mentioned that roughly \$200,000 was spent in both April and May on the ambulance, and he asks if that's what it cost to run the ambulance that month. Bruce explains how the ambulance reconciliation works.

Next Meeting

No meeting scheduled for June.

Motion to adjourn at 6:18pm by John second by Ken. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Shauna Condon, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer