

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

Minutes November 28, 2022

Location: Council on Aging 45 Dayton Street

Joint Meeting: Fire District No.1 and Water Department Fire District No. 1

Call to Order 4:34 pm Bruce Perron.

Ambulance Adjustments

Motion for September of \$207, 776.43 by John second by Ken, all in favor unanimous.

Motion for October for \$232,986.50 by John, second by Ken, all in favor unanimous.

Hydrant Report

Steve Blaney and Bruce of River Road spoke.

The water line stops by the Lomis House

Options:

Dry hydrant, drafting for river at an access point

Cistern

Continuing the current water line, this could cost over \$1,000,000.

FD could purchase a tanker.

Will be working with HGE on available land and locations.

Meeting is being recorded.

Due to technical difficulties with recording the meeting was called to order again at 5:00 pm

Fire Attendance: Bruce, Ken and John

Water Attendance: Brain, Scott and Bill

District Legal Council was in attendance

What does each board have for authority

Fire and Water is one District together

Fire District Chair Bruce Perron Comments

Water has authority has authority over water issues

T-mobile was obtain for a cost savings to the district.

Water Chair Brian McClaflin Comments

It is one district with two different operating budgets.

Board of water commisssoners voted to stay with Verizon, phones were not being paid.

The water board will not authorize T-Mobile bills.

Massachusetts General Law has grey areas. Recommended by Legal Council to develop an MOU for operation of each board. Have boards do their due diligence to work together and independent. Come together and develop a plan of operations and job descriptions for each board member.

Discussion by water board members Scott, Brian and Bill.

Clarify what is a water issue, what is a fire issue and what are district issues.

Recommendation from Legal Council, pay outstanding bills on phone system and move forward.

Pay dispute with Clerk/Treasurer raise, 2% by water board and 4% by prudential board. The salary is divided, 75% is paid by fire and 25% is paid by water.

Recommendation from Legal Council, to move forward and be more specific at budget time, get together and have a discussion with both boards.

Outstanding Public Record Complaints

Complaint from a resident that would like 5 years of phone data.

There are 288 text messages and jpeg files. District could have fines for non-compliance. A password is needed to access the phone.

Discussion on how boards hire and work with Legal Council

Bruce comments, there is one Legal Council for the district. Past History, for anyone to talk with the Legal Council the procedure is to talk with the Prudential Board Chair first.

Process to move forward.

Pick one representative from each board, recommend then to consult with Legal Council. Representatives to go back to their respective boards to discuss and then both boards come together.

Comment from Bill, define each board's responsibilities.

Bruce Fancier filled a freedom of information request with the Secretary of State. Has taken since August. The Ethics Commission is also interested. Asking for 5 year of records, this will take time.

Both Boards will look into having an Executive Session.

Questions and comments by public

Why has phone bill not been paid? Bill will be paid.

Why do we have same cell phone vendor and same general council?

A recommendation was presented to change by-laws.

A recommendation to let the water board do their own business with no input from prudential board.

Get back to harmony between boards and find a common ground.

Move forward with positive action.

Motion to adjourn joint meeting at 6:26 pm by John second by Ken. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Kenneth F. Beliveau, Clerk