

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

Minutes April 06, 2022

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

Meeting time: 4:30 pm.

Attendance: Bruce Perron, Ken Beliveau, John Wojciechowski, Terie Fleury

T-Mobile Discussion

Scott Williams gives an update about the switch to T-Mobile. He notes that they will need Terie to close out the Verizon account when they officially switch to T-Mobile and port over the numbers. He says the completion of the T-Mobile implementation will be on Monday. There is a question if the Water Department's SCADA system will need a hotspot. John explains that there will need to be contact with the Water Board to ensure their needs are being met.

Review and Approve Minutes

January 12 minutes to be approved. Bruce motions to accept the minutes as written with the addition of the vote to adjourn. Ken seconds. Unanimous.

Chief's Report

**March 2022**

Fire calls: 37

EMS: 175

**Year-to-date calls**

Fire: 118

EMS: 574

**Compared to April 06, 2021:**

Fire: 100

EMS: 586

**March 2022 inspections**

Smoke/CO: 12

Business: 10

Lockbox: 3

Oil burners: 4

Lieutenant/Captain test will take place April 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. It will be conducted at the South Hadley Police Department. 3 Lieutenants will be taking the Captain test and 5 people will be taking the Lieutenant test.

Firefighter Wicken is still assigned to light duty.

#### Ambulance Report

From February reconciliation report: collected \$80,251.22.

For March 2022: 9 intercepts for District 2

Captain Stark notes that Comstar had a cyber-attack on their server, which has been down since approximately March 25<sup>th</sup>. He notes that no one has been able to download patient care reports for billing, and for the district it has been since around the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. He notes that the window for submitting billing is usually 60-90 days for MassHealth and Medicare. He will continue to pass on information as he receives it. He has roughly 90-100 reports that have not been able to be submitted.

Bruce asks if there is any concern about loss of revenue, given the potential impact on the budget. Capt. Stark notes any potential impact would not likely be on this next budget, but the 2024 budget.

#### Continued Ambulance Discussion

John had discussions with the Westfield mechanic and the vehicle manufacturer that they have chosen to replace the ambulance, and they satisfied his questioning with the thought of going to a gas engine vs. a diesel. He notes that the amount of fuel that will be consumed in a shift could increase considerably going to gas vs. diesel, and the new diesel engine that will be in the new one is backed by a new transmission and is designed to increase fuel economy. Capt. Stark discusses the necessary specs for the new ambulance.

Bruce motions that the next ambulance that is coming in will be a diesel. Second by Ken. Unanimous.

#### Clerk/Treasurer's Report

Terie reports that free cash has been certified. It is \$770,861.00

She has been working on the election and has secured all workers including a warden and clerk. She found a constable, and the election was posted.

She met with the District 2 Clerk/Treasurer, and they went over what election day will look like, given that they will be sharing responsibilities and costs.

Terie has been working with Scott regarding the T-Mobile switch. She asks if, since this has taken so long, the Board feels it's necessary to take another vote to confirm that they are going with T-Mobile. Bruce's position is that it is redundant. John suggests referring anyone who is unsure about whether it is taking place, per the existing vote, to the minutes from the meeting in which the vote took place.

There is a new Call person.

She notes she is working on various reports.

She called the Senior Center to see if they are willing to host the annual meeting, but they will not be able to.

The PVPA sent dates that they are available. The 18<sup>th</sup> doesn't work, but the following dates do: May 09<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup>, May 31<sup>st</sup>, and June 01<sup>st</sup>.

There is a concern raised about whether the meeting could take place on the 09<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> of May, given a bylaw stating that articles must be turned into the Treasurer 35 days prior to the annual meeting. They tentatively set the date for June 01<sup>st</sup>.

#### ARPA American Rescue Plan

The Chief mentions that Terie was going to talk to Barbara Miller about a joint letter from the Prudential Boards to the Town. The Chief also notes that the district's application is in.

#### Continued Budget Development

Bruce explains that they were considering \$853,776.00 from the unconfirmed State, and the State came back at \$770,861.00. He recommends spending \$806,597.00 on ambulance wages, \$70,000.00 on medical supplies, \$4,000.00 for the computer account, and \$90,000.00 for the ambulance stabilization fund from the ambulance reserve fund.

Chief notes that there are an additional 2 firefighters in his budget, which Bruce notes works out to \$112,146.42 for 1. John asks if, with the addition of 2, money is saved elsewhere. Chief explains the minimum staff is still at 4, so there could be 2 people off on vacation time without hiring on overtime. He also notes that they should be saving by not toning out as much. Additionally, there might be the loss of 5 firefighters to retirement over the next 2 years, so there are advantages to hiring and training now.

Bruce asks Chief for a ballpark number for the savings. There is discussion, but ultimately no clear number given. Chief also raises the point that the addition of 2 firefighters would be for safety purposes.

They tentatively set April 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 as the next date/time to meet to finalize the budget and discuss any necessary T-Mobile implementation information.

#### New Business

No new business.

#### Motion to Adjourn

Bruce motions to adjourn. Second by Ken. Unanimous, adjourned at 6:08.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shauna Condon, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer