

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

Minutes March 16, 2022

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

Present: John Wojciechowski (chair), Ken Beliveau (clerk) Bruce Perron (member), Bob Authier (fire chief), Terie Fleury (treasurer), Kari Scytowski, Scott Williams (Water Commission)

Call to Order 4:30 pm, Meeting was recorded

New Business

T-Mobile update from Scott Williams, hot spots will be available as part of the contract with no extra charge. Discussion.

Four phone lines will be dedicated as hot spots for use by the Fire Department, Ambulance usage. 21 phone lines and 4 hot spots, total cost monthly is under \$300.00 (most likely \$293.50), Full District cost of \$383.04 for Verizon Phones. Scott is to continue with his research. Discussion.

Chiefs Report

February 2022

EMS - 171 calls

Fire - 32 calls

Inspections

CO / Smoke - 13

Business - 15

Lock Box - 7

Oil Burner - 6

Community outreach – Capt. Houle has done two talks on Falls and Fire Prevention at the Senior Center, six senior home visits conducted.

FF Wicken continues on light duty, FF Mike Harrowfield resigned from the call force

Minutes

Motion by Bruce to approve minutes for November 30, 2021 seconded by Ken, approved unanimous

Motion by Bruce to approve minutes for December 21, 2021 seconded by Ken, approved unanimous

Ambulance Adjustments

Motion by Bruce to make ambulance adjustment of \$213,494.15 seconded by Ken approved unanimous

Clerk / Treasurers Report

Checked with Verizon on what they could give to the Fire District for a lower price.

Only could add the Water Department on to the public safety side. No other discount or help available from Verizon.

Free Cash, all reports are complete. One page needs to be balanced. More information is needed from the auditors, call has been placed to them for this information.

Elections, April 12. Vote 7:00 am – 8:00 pm. Discussion on possible changes for voting procedure from the Town that were being talked about at the Board of Selectman and to have the Fire District involved with and notified of the change.
Further review of this possible change will be conducted at a future meeting.
Discussion on voting, both Prudential Board and Water Commissioners are uncontested, and write ins.
Looking at Treasure Bond and obtain a saving \$85.00 by going with a different company.
Auditors will be going up on their fee.
Credit Card has a late fee due to receipts from Water Department turned in to treasures office late.
Discussion.

New Ambulance Discussion Tabled

ARPA Grant

Submitted three applications for ARPA Grant, \$120,000.00 COVID essential worker incentive pay, \$7,500.00 for PPE and \$45,054.24 for reimbursement for sick time use during COVID. Town Administrator has provided the Chief with another link away from ARPA to get PPE reimbursement, \$7,500.00 request will be removed from request to ARPA. The Selectboard did not discuss the essential worker part due to all town departments not knowing they could apply. The selectboard withheld the money, question from a member of the board asking if the Fire District was even eligible.
Request from the Chief to send a letter to Town Administrator that the Fire District should get some of the ARPA Money. Discussion. Chief and Terie to develop the letter.

Water Tower

E-mail was received by Jeff Cyr. Verizon wants to add a fourth section with cables to the water tower to help address service coverage issues. Prudential Board has been requested to sign the amendment. Discussion. Motion by Bruce to accept Amendment #9 to the lease agreement with Verizon as presented, seconded by Ken. Motion approved, unanimous.

Budget Development

Changes Chiefs salary increase to be added.
Review and discussion of budget.
Auditors increase from \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00.
Actuarial fee \$4,100.00. Can be split between 2022 and 2023. Was \$3,900.00.
Every other year usually for an audit, became every year because of having a Bond.
Ambulance type – gasoline vs. diesel.
Continued discussion on budget.

New Business - Continued

Opinion letter being worked on by Lawyer on who has the authority in the District and clarify the Clerk / Treasurers position duties and policies.

Next meeting April 6, 2022 4:30 pm

Motion to adjourn at 6:36 pm, Motion by Bruce, seconded by Ken, unanimous.

Respectively Submitted, Kenneth F. Beliveau, Clerk