

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #1
144 Newton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

Date: 4/19/18

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

This session is being recorded

Call to Order: 6:30:p.m.

Prudential Committee Members Present: Kevin Taugher, Chairman
 Michael Wozniak, Clerk
 Bruce Perron, Member

- Call to order
- Signing of warrants authorizing payroll and expense payments.
- Kevin Taugher made an apology to the Chief, the Prudential Board, and meeting attendees regarding his behavior at the March 21st meeting. He stated that his “frustration overwhelmed his better judgment resulting in dialog that wasn’t productive”. Kevin also proposed that responses to any performance review be put in writing, and that the Prudential Committee can review it outside the meeting and respond in writing at the next opportunity. This will allow achievements to be properly documented, reflected upon with time to think and will allow for constructive observations without having spur of the moment responses. Another observation Kevin made is that sometimes action items get overlooked and, as such, would ask that the Chief make a list of action items during the meeting and distribute it to the Prudential Committee and the Clerk/Treasurer the day following the meeting that will then form the basis for the agenda for the following meeting.
- Bruce Perron stated that he was uncomfortable having Kevin chair the meeting. Michael Wozniak was then given the floor to present his thoughts on the subject. He stated that in his view the Prudential Board has 5 possible actions to pursue in this matter, keeping in mind that the individuals involved in this matter have individual rights and the right to due process under the law.
 1. Take no further action in this matter if the two principals involved have no objections.
 2. Defer any action until after the election, when the board will vote to determine what assignments each member will hold in the coming year.
 3. Using “Robert’s Rules of Order” make a motion to censure the Chairman and put him on notice that if his unwarranted behavior persists into the future, that he be removed as Chairman.
 4. Make a motion to remove Kevin Taugher as Chairman

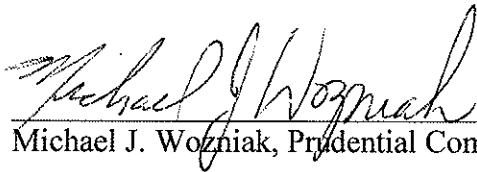
5. To pursue a course of action under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Subparagraph 1 which addresses “Administrative procedures” relating to entering into Executive Session to: “discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual”.

After these statements, it was opened up for general discussion. Bruce Perron stated that a sixth option would be for Kevin to resign from the Prudential Committee.

- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Mike Wozniak to re-organize the Chairmanship for tonight’s meeting. Vote was two in favor, 1 opposed (Kevin Taugher)
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Mike Wozniak to have Mike Wozniak chair the rest of the meeting. Vote was two in favor, 1 opposed (Kevin Taugher)
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Mike Wozniak to approve the Prudential Committee meeting notes from 3/21/18. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- Monica gave an update on the annual district election and the 28 warrant articles that will have to be read by the Prudential Committee. There was a general discussion about raising the salary of the Clerk to around \$2,500 and possibly amending Article 4 on the floor. Regarding changing the election to align with the Town Election, there was a general discussion about whether the Town Clerk had any issues with how future District Elections would be held if Article 26 receives a favorable vote. All were in agreement that the procedures outlined in the press release submitted to the Town Reminder would be followed.
- Monica gave a update on the borrowing for the new truck. The district will be borrowing the money from Berkshire Bank at a rate of 1.6% and the money will be available on April 25th. The Warrant will be available to sign on or before the Annual Meeting. The new truck is due to be delivered on May 1st.
- There was a general discussion as to whether the District should revisit the Opioid Lawsuit. At the 3/21/18 PC meeting, we voted not to pursue it due to the low number of Opioid incidents that we have encountered in the past. Monica is to contact one of the lawyers involved to see how much effort the District would have to put in, in order to pursue this lawsuit. Monica is to also get together with Kurt to see if we can link ambulance runs to opioid treatments. An update will be presented at the next meeting.
- Monica gave an update on the health insurance situation based on an insurance meeting held last week. There were 15-20 communities that did not adopt or properly notify their respective unions or members about co pay changes to sections 21-23 regarding the health insurance trust. It was voted by the trust that any co pay changes would be delayed until July 2019 or later. The reason for this decision is to avoid any litigation that might arise from any improper notifications. The trust did not properly inform communities on what procedures had to be instituted to properly notify people. According to Mike Sullivan's TA report, notifications had to go out in registered mail with a return receipt.

- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Kevin Taugher to allow the Lions Club the use of Leaping Wells Reservoir for its annual fishing derby on May 19th. Unanimous affirmative vote. Mike Wozniak is to write a letter to the Lions Club informing them of the PC board's decision, and to also let them know that they must provide liability insurance, naming the District as a co-insured.
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Kevin Taugher to approve the Kurtz contract in the amount of \$118,734.00 for the structural upgrade of the floor. Unanimous Affirmative vote.
- Kevin provided an update on Mt. Holyoke College's press release regarding their donations to both fire districts. A draft press release written by Kevin McCaffery was presented to the Board. Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Kevin Taugher to accept the Mt. Holyoke press release as amended. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- Kevin Taugher gave an update as to the investigation of combining fire and water districts. He stated the he was unable to contact the D2 Chairman, but was advised that there would be upcoming changes to the Prudential Board of D2. There was a general discussion regarding alternate scenarios if the two districts were to merge. More analysis is needed regarding ambulance services to service both districts. The Board decided to wait until after D2 has had their election in June to schedule a joint meeting between the D1 & D2 Prudential boards.
- Motion made by Kevin Taugher, seconded by Bruce Perron to make ambulance adjustments for the month of March 2018 in the amount of \$205,712.45. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- A reorganizational meeting of the Prudential Committee will be held after the Annual District Meeting on April 30th. The next regular Prudential Committee meeting will be held on May 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station.
- Chief's Report: Total Fire calls as of 4/18/18 were 159, EMS calls were 671. In March of 2018, there were 46 Fire calls, and 180 EMS calls. During March/April, there were 12 business inspections, 19 Smoke/CO inspections, 4 Oil burner inspections and 5 food truck inspections. The new ladder truck (to be named Ladder 5) will arrive on May 1st. Training on the new truck will be coordinated with Pierce representatives. Regarding personnel, Joe Scott has returned to full duty and FF Darren O'Reilly has been offered employment. The Chief reviewed key numbers from the Expenditure Report.
- Chief's report on Fiber Optics: District 1 received a quote of \$199.00 a month from SHELd for internet services. This does not include phones, email or television. A meeting was attended by Sean Fitzgerald, Captain Schenker, Doug Norton and the Chief via phone. We furnished SHELd with our IT contact number and they will be contacting them further. We also inquired about phone services, which would require another quote. SHELd will be looking at how our public safety facility will need to be adapted for the phone service. Business lines should not be an issue, but our emergency line, plus any lines that connect us to our repeater need to be looked at. Captain Stark and the Chief met with Pittsfield Communications regarding our radio system and repeaters, and the use of Fiber on those. They will need to visually inspect our infrastructure to determine the best course of action. The Chief is to provide a follow up report for the next meeting.

- Motion made by Mike Wozniak: I move that the Prudential Committee retire to meeting in executive session pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), subparagraph 3, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the South Hadley District 1 Professional Fire Fighters Association following which the Committee shall reconvene in open session. Roll Call vote: Mike Wozniak, Aye, Bruce Perron, Aye, Kevin Taugher, Aye. Entered executive session at 8:06 p.m.
- Returned to open session at 8:34 p.m.
- Chief's update on "exit interview" policy including discussion on contract policy changes: tabled
- Kevin Taugher will present agenda items for the next meeting in regards to policy changes that we are falling behind on.
- "Position of Fire Chief" follow up: tabled.
- Motion made by Kevin Taugher, seconded by Bruce Perron to adjourn. Unanimous Affirmative Vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Michael J. Wozniak, Prudential Committee Clerk, FD1