

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

MEETING DATE: March 15, 2012: Called to order at 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fire District # 1 headquarters

ATTENDANCE: Ray Hopfe, Ray Miner, Kevin Taugher Prudential Committee

CHIEF: Robert Authier

TREASURER: Not present

OTHERS: FD No. 1 Firefighter Scott Walsh, Ambulance Director Kurt Schenker

WARRANTS: Warrants presented were approved by signature.

MINUTES: Minutes of Executive Sessions for September 1, 2011 and November 28, 2011 meetings were accepted as written, 2-0 with one abstention. K. Taugher said he was abstaining as he did not attend the meeting, it was held before his appointment.

UNCOLLECTABLE: No motion

DEPT BUSINESS:

Appeal of suspension by FF Michele Choquette.

FF Choquette was offered executive session or open session review, and she opted for open session.

Documents reviewed:

1. Chief Authier to FF Choquette of January 13, 2012: Suspension Notification
2. Chief Authier to All full-time FF of February 9, 2011: Policy Notification on mandatory drills
3. EMAIL FF Choquette to Chief Authier of January 11, 2012: RE: Sick Leave
4. EMAIL response to above of Chief Authier to FF Choquette of January 11, 2012
5. EMAIL response to above of FF Choquette to Chief Authier of January 11, 2012
6. EMAIL FF Walsh to Chief Authier of January 12, 2012: Subject: Choquette
7. SHFD No. 1 "Handbook for FT and PT Firefighters" September 2011 edition

Discussion:

Chief Authier restated his position for the suspension based upon the correspondence no. 1.

FF Choquette said she has submitted the necessary doctor's note to justify her sick time.

There was additional discussion outlining both sides of the suspension issue.

K. Taugher stated that it appeared that FF Choquette had complied with FD policy on the sick time abuse issue, and that portion of the suspension estimated to be two of the three days should be rescinded. K. Taugher also stated that missing the drill without properly notifying the Chief, after telling FF Walsh she would be attending the drill should be disciplined and the one day of the suspension upheld.

K. Taugher made the motion and R. Miner seconded to rescind two days of the three day suspension. Motion passed 3 – 0.

## Budget Discussion

The PC Reviewed the FY13 budget. The Chief recommended budget amounted to \$3,442,992.70, to be funded by 52,080.00 from the SAFER grant, 689,500.00 from Ambulance receipts and 407,000.00 from free cash for a tax levy of \$2,294,412.70.

K. Taugher said that these numbers were in line with expectations but those assumptions on how to structure the funding requests and balancing the different budgets should be reviewed by the Treasurer before becoming finalized.

## FD Update

Chief Authier provided some updates on the status of the building maintenance issues and other potential equipment needs.

## Ambulance Update

Kurt Schenker identified concerns regarding funding a replacement ambulance budget. He agreed that this item could come back to a later meeting once the budget issues have been reviewed by the Treasurer.

## Received the following correspondence:

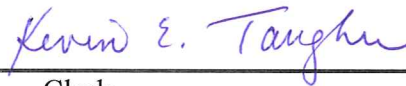
Request from Town of South Hadley Memorial Day Parade Committee to Chief Authier to allow for the raffling of a ride on the fire truck in the parade as a fund raiser for the Parade Committee. The Chief told the PC that there was no risk to the rider or the ability of the FD to respond to any emergencies as a result of this accommodation.

K. Taugher moved and R. Miner seconded approval of the scheme. Motion passed 3 – 0.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Ray Miner moved and K. Taugher seconded the motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:42 PM

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE



Clerk

Approval: June 18, 2012 meeting