

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

MEETING DATE: December 30, 2010 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Fire Headquarters, 144 Newton Street, So. Hadley

ATTENDANCE:
Prudential Committee: Edward Wall, Chairman
Raymond Miner
Raymond Hopfe

INTERIM CHIEF: Brian McClaflin

TREASURER: Meg St. Martin

OTHERS: Mark Beauregard, Barry Del Castilho, Monica Walton, Gene Os, Mitch Mercier, Scott Walsh, James Beauregard, Peter J, Kurt Schenker, Tim Nelson, Jeremy Simmons, Gary Hogan, Kevin Taugher, Robert Authier and family, Pat Cahill from the republican, and Barb from the Hampshire Gazette

WARRANTS: Payroll and Bill Warrants were signed and approved by all attending board members.

FIRE CHIEF POSITION: Barry has completed all back-round and reference checks on Robert Authier. Barry reports that they all went very well. There are two issues:
First Roberts lack of experience in administrative knowledge and second the current issue with Robert's suspension for Holyoke Fire Dept.

The Prudential Board asked Robert Authier to explain the current situation regarding the Holyoke Fire Dept.

Robert Authier: I was suspended for 5 days for what is being called "gross insubordination" that has been appealed and changed to a 1 day suspension. Robert then turned the floor over to Timothy Leary, president of the Holyoke Firefighters Association. Mr. Leary stated that this is all a misunderstanding and personality conflict of the Holyoke Fire Chief and that the Holyoke Firefighters Association believes that it was done to cause problems for Mr. Authier. The 1 day suspension is being appealed with the request that current situation be completely removed from Mr. Authier's record.

Raymond Hopfe asked why we had to read it in the papers first. Robert stated because he was still an employee of the Holyoke Fire Dept. he had to follow their policies and could not speak about the issue. Ed Wall reminded him that "trust" is a big part of the Chief's position and the Board would have preferred if Robert would have told them that there was an issue going on.

Ed Wall: the public has been asking why SHFD1 would hire a suspended firefighter. However, the public did not have all the facts. The Prudential board is satisfied that Robert Authier will do a good job as the new chief.

The new Chief's contract has been discussed between Barry, Robert Authier and legal counsel for Robert and the Fire Dept. There will be a review on the contract tonight.

Parts reviewed with changes:

2B, 5A, 5 B, 7D, 9A, 9B

All changes were approved by Robert Authier, Mark Beauregard and Prudential Committee.

Contract will be finalized and ready for the Prudential Boards signature's tomorrow morning.

MOTION: Raymond Hopfe made a motion to approve the fire chief's (Robert Authier) 5 year contract with the changes discussed this evening. Contract is starting January 3, 2011. Raymond Miner seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Chief's transition: Brian will go back to Captain's position Jan. 3, 2011 but will stay on days with Chief Authier for a couple weeks before returning to his regular shift.

The Board thanked Interim Chief Brian McClafin for taking over at a time of need and that he did a great job.

BY LAW COMMITTEE: A meeting will be set up for Wednesday January 5, 2011 at 3:00 pm to appoint the last member of the By Law Committee.

OLD LOCK BOXES: Brian McClafin asked if it would be ok if the Fire Dept. offered all members the old lock boxes. The Prudential Board was fine with that.

FIRE DEPT STATION: New lights and thermostats are being put in.
A couple problems have come up with the New Alarm room counsel. The project is still moving forward and hopes that it will be installed very soon.

MOTION TO: Raymond Hopfe made a motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Ray Miner.

ADJOURN: Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Raymond Hopfe, Clerk