

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

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

Date: 10/5/17

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

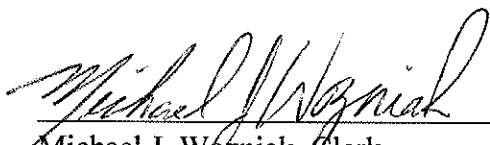
This session is being recorded

Call to Order: 6:30

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

- Sign warrants authorizing payroll and expenses
- There was a discussion regarding the attestation clause based on the information provided by legal counsel and the Inspector General. Motion by Michael Wozniak, seconded Kevin Taugher, opposed by Bruce Perron to approve the attestation clause and policy as written. Motion passed two to one.
- Update of DUNS & SAM numbers – tabled.
- There was a general discussion regarding the information provided by Firegrantshelp. A clarification was provided by Cara Freedman that stated that “Any purchase made prior to a FEMA award would not be eligible for re-imbursement”. It was decided that the District should apply for the FEMA grant anyway. Additionally, the Chief is to research grants that we could possible use for upgrading the apparatus floor.
- Update from Clerk/Treasurer on FY2017 actual and FY2018 Free cash status - tabled
- Bruce Perron discussed a possible Tax Exempt lease purchase option offered by Pierce Financial Solutions. On a \$1,200,000 truck purchase @ 7 years, the annual payment would be \$192,317 at 2.96% and for a 10 year period the annual payment would be \$142,911 at 3.31%. Kevin Taugher will contact Monica to add the Pierce lease option to the mix. The lease would have to be approved by the District every year. If the District borrows the money it would require a 2/3 vote from the District and we are locked in. The District will have to look at it in terms of taxes and finances.
- Kevin Taugher talked to Ken McKenna, the chairman of the Prudential Committee for District 2 about Mt. Holyoke College subsidizing the cost of a ladder truck for up to \$200,000. Kevin Taugher is to schedule a joint meeting to discuss and vote on whether the District wants to accept the money from Mount Holyoke College. The joint meeting is to be held Oct. 12, at Fire District 2 headquarters at 7:00 p.m. The Mt. Holyoke College finance board meets on Oct. 17th.

- Discussion of funding sources for apparatus floor – tabled
- Discussion and vote changing the District election to align with the Town election. - Tabled
- Kevin Taugher provided an update regarding the combining of the two fire districts. Kevin Taugher had a meeting with the chairmen of all four boards. Kevin stated that we need to define what the objectives would be as it relates to cost reduction, maintaining services, and staff reduction through attrition only (district 2 provision only). Kevin Taugher presented several scenarios in regards to the Tax impacts of combining the 2 districts. In order to be on par with the Fire District 1's tax rate of \$2.29 per/\$1,000, District 2 would have to cut their budget by \$266,348 and District 1 hasn't save a penny. There are many issues to be addressed on combining the Districts with the ultimate goal of saving money. John Mikuszewski wants to have a business plan to put the two districts together. Ken McKenna is to go back to their board based on what Kevin Taugher has presented to see how they want to approach the possible merge. Ken is to get back to Kevin Taugher next week.
- Kevin Taugher provided an analysis of the ambulance fund from FY14 to FY17. The collection % has gone from 46.7% in FY14 to 33.34% in FY17. Ambulance fund adjustments- tabled
- Fire Chief's report – Fire calls for September were 55 and EMS calls were 190. Fire calls YTD are 380 and EMS calls YTD were 1,678. Lt. Houle attended career day at South Hadley High School. Fire District 1 assisted the South Hadley Police Department with its annual movie night. FF Briant, Lt. Houle and the Chief attended the SAFE conference.
- Motion made by Kevin Taugher, seconded by Bruce Perron, "I move that the Prudential Committee retire to meet 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. An open meeting on this subject would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the South Hadley Fire District No. 1. Roll call vote: Kevin Taugher, Aye, Bruce Perron, Aye, Michael Wozniak, Aye.
- Entered exec session at: 7:49 p.m.
- Returned to open session at: 8:03 p.m.
- Motion by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak to adjourn. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be on 10/26/17 at the fire station at 6:30 p.m.


 Michael J. Wozniak, Clerk