

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

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

Date: 12/13/17

Location: Water Department Headquarters, 438 Granby Road, South Hadley, MA

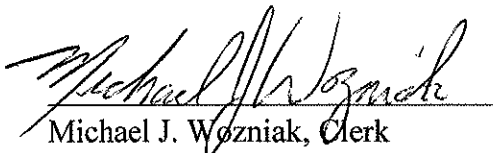
This session is being recorded

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

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

- Sign warrants authorizing payroll and expenses
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak to accept regular meeting minutes dated 11/16/17. Unanimous affirmative vote. Motion made by Kevin Taugher, seconded by Michael Wozniak to accept the tax classification meeting notes of 12/5/17. Vote: 2-0, 1 abstention. (Bruce Perron not in attendance)
- The Clerk/Treasurer stated that free cash was certified by Mass. DOR at \$640,472 as of 7/1/17. Free cash was certified on 12/4/17. Free cash is down approximately \$100,000 from last year.
- There was a general discussion regarding the articles to be presented at the Special District Meeting on Dec. 14th. All articles were reviewed by District Counsel Mark Beauregard. The Clerk/Treasurer is to present two scenarios using a Municipal Bond borrowing at 2.5% and 3.5% for a 10 year bond including municipal bonding fees of \$15,000. Base on this year's tax rate, using the value of an average single family home, it would add 12 to 13 cents on the tax rate. The motions for the meeting were reviewed and Prudential Committee members were assigned certain articles to be read.
- The Clerk/Treasurer presented a spreadsheet for the preliminary FY19 budget. It does not include any provisions for the new fire truck. The preliminary budget for FY19 is \$3,918,625 or an increase of \$65,297 over FY18. Any money not spent, goes back into free cash. Kevin Taugher provided a detailed review of the various accounts. The plan going forward is to have another budget meeting in January, with the hope of closing out the FY19 budget by February 2018.
- The Clerk/Treasurer is accepting submissions for the Annual Report.
- Captain Schenker provided a preliminary report relating to ambulance collections by various categories.
- There was a general discussion regarding aligning the District elections with the Town election. Attorney Ryan contacted Ms. Tassanari, the General Counsel to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office, and she stated that the "polling place would have to have its separate location within the building and voters of the Districts in both South Hadley and Granby would have to be notified in advance of the election." She also stated that District 2 voters could vote outside the boundaries of the District as long as "it was reasonably convenient to the voters".

- There was a general discussion on merging the two fire districts. Kevin had a discussion with Ken McKenna and other District 2 Prudential Committee members. Kevin received a letter from District 2 saying that it was too premature to assign conditions and assumptions required for a merged district. They want to continue discussions about the merge by having the two full Boards meet to have joint discussions as to what the merged district would look like and what would be needed for support from the entire community. The assumption from District 1 was that it was necessary to save money in year 1. Kevin noted that District 2 still owes \$1.8 million on their fire station with 9 years left to pay and both of their fire trucks are 25 years or older. Additionally, the ambulance they want to replace is 6 years old. Kevin is to go back to Ken McKenna and ask them what does District 2 see as savings for the merge and what would District 1 save. Kevin is to draft a response letter to District 2.
- Motion made by Kevin Taugher: "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.
- The next scheduled regular meeting is 1/18/18 at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station.
- Entered Executive session at 7:45 p.m.
- Returned to Open Session at 8:20 p.m.
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak to approve ambulance contractual allowance for October 2017 in the amount of \$148,350.46. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak to approve ambulance contractual allowance for November 2017 in the amount of \$146,049.13. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- Chief's report: Fire calls and EMS calls for November were 52 and 184 respectively. YTD fire is 496 and YTD EMS calls are 2,104. District 1 responded to the fatal fire in Holyoke on Veteran's day. Business inspections for November were 24 and Smoke/CO inspections were 22. Lockbox installed YTD are 125. Bar inspections were conducted by both the Fire Department and the Building Department and all have passed inspection. Lt. Walsh is now currently assigned to Fire Inspection. The Drunken Rabbit has been inspected and is now open for business.
- A motion was made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak to adjourn. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


Michael J. Wozniak, Clerk