

Fire District #1 Prudential Committee

Open Session Meeting November 12, 2015

Call to order @ 6:30pm

Members present- Kevin Taugher, Ray Miner & Greg Sheehan

Signing of the Warrants

Review and approval of minutes of previous meetings

- GS- motion to approve the open session meeting minutes for October 22, 2015
- RM- 2ND
- UA

Timeline for 2017 Budget Process

There was discussion about getting a preliminary budget together for a December meeting that may take place before our scheduled December meeting. It was mentioned that this meeting could be just to discuss the budget process. . Monica thought that would be fine. There was discussion about meeting with the water commissioners that was left open.

Ambulance Director report an recommendation for Ambulance receipts, including update of receipts and adjustments by month

- GS- motion to adjust the ambulance receipts ending October 31, 2015 in the amount of \$78,508.69
- RM- 2ND
- UA

Discussion and vote on policy and process to collect past due ambulance fees and/or issue abatements

The committee had discussed in the past ways that we may be able to capture outstanding receipts from people that receive services but aren't paying their portion of the bill. KT had asked Capt. Schenker to look into how other communities are addressing the same issue. The committee felt an obligation on behalf of the taxpayers to make sure that if there are financially able people who weren't paying their bills we should have some process for addressing this issue. Especially in light of the fact that we are lucky to collect on half of what we bill for. Capt. Schenker gave us Granby Fire Departments abatement policy. (See attached) There was no vote taken to implement anything. It was tabled for further discussion after more data could be gathered

Chief's monthly update on events, spending vs. plan, administrative, interactions with town departments, inspections, capital projects

- Chief status on hiring two call firefighters

Chief said that they had done interviews and would be making offers shortly to the candidates

- Chief's report on return to work policy and process after absence

This request was made in a previous meeting of the acting Chief at the time Capt. Schenker . Capt. Schenker had said that Chief Authier treated it on a case by case basis. That did not sit well with the committee so the topic was revisited. Chief Authier said that if it was work related then the employee had to get approved for duty through work connection. If it was not work related then the employee needed approval from their Doctor.

KT had asked Chief for an update on his sick time status and the Chief had said he had unlimited sick time. However, that is not stated in his contract. Chief provided us with a print out of his sick time as well as vacation time for 2015. (See attached) It appears that Chief Authier by his own record had taken 38 sick days in 2015 and 13 vacation days. This is cause for concern seeing as how his terms of employment did not stipulate unlimited sick time.

Discussion and vote on Chief's responsibility to notify the PC for vacation, sick and compensatory time off.

The terms of the Chief's employment states that any compensatory time needed to be approved by the Chair of the Prudential Committee yet there has been no record or approval of compensatory time taken or accumulated throughout the Chief's time of employment. This was concerning to some members of the committee and lends itself to a lack of administrative oversight by the Chief, particularly in regards to his own benefits.

There were no additional updates

Discussion on Warrant articles for special district meeting on November 30, 2015

A 2nd special meeting needed to be set for addition invoices that had not been paid in the previous fiscal year. There was a prior special meeting to address ambulance billing invoices that were not paid. At that time GS had asked if there were any other gremlins that were going to be needed to be addressed at which time Chief Authier and Capt. Schenker responded "no". However it turns out that another special meeting is needed to address outstanding invoices not paid. Again, lending itself to a lack of administrative oversight on the part of Chief Authier.

In addition to the article to address prior fiscal years outstanding invoices the committee was adding an article for additional \$12,500 for legal fees. This is to address costs for typical district counsel to review contracts etc. But the bulk of the monies were going to be used for legal fees associated with negotiating with the union.

Discussion on the property classification hearing to set the FY 2016 tax rate, scheduled for December 1, 2015

KT gave an assessors update and presented his findings. The conclusion was that the tax rate in the district was going down 1 cent

Roll call vote to enter executive session- in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 30A, section 18(a) (exception #3) and return to open session at the conclusion of executive session

Discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with South Hadley Fire District 1 Professional Fire Fighters Association

KT "I move that we enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the South Hadley Fire District 1 Professional Fire Fighters Association because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the district"

See attached roll call vote

Entered executive session at 7:06pm

Returned to open session at 7:13pm

There was no new business to report

Next meeting date was set for 12/17 at 6:30pm

- GS- motion to adjourn
- RM- 2nd
- UA

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm

Respectfully submitted



Greg Sheehan

Prudential Committee, Clerk

Notice of PUBLIC Meeting
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

144 Newton Street

South Hadley, MA 01075

November 12, 2015

Date and Time: November 12, 2015

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

I move that we enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the South Hadley District 1 Professional Fire Fighters Association because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the district.

Open session will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session. "

This requires a roll call vote: Ray Miner AYE Greg Sheehan AYE Kevin Taugher AYE

Time entering executive session: 7:06 pm

I entertain a motion to adjourn executive session and return to open session:

Time returning to open session: 7:13 pm

(b) A public body may meet in closed session for 1 or more of the purposes enumerated in subsection (a) provided that:

1. the body has first convened in an open session pursuant to section 21;
2. a majority of members of the body have voted to go into executive session and the vote of each member is recorded by roll call and entered into the minutes;
3. before the executive session, the chair shall state the purpose for the executive session, stating all subjects that may be revealed without compromising the purpose for which the executive session was called;
4. the chair shall publicly announce whether the open session will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session; and
5. accurate records of the executive session shall be maintained pursuant to section 23.