

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

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

Date: 1/18/18

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

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

- Call to order
- Signing of warrants authorizing payroll and expense payments.
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak, to approve the 12/13/17 regular meeting notes as amended. Unanimous Affirmative Vote.
- The Chief provided an update on the status of FEMA grant application. A conference call with personnel from FireGrantsHelp, the Chief and Michael Wozniak will take place tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to see where we stand on moving forward with the FEMA grant application for the new fire truck. Mike Wozniak suggested that we “clean up” the FEMA grant application so that if the grant for the fire truck falls through, that we could submit an application for an ambulance or to upgrade the facility. Chief Anderson of the Southwick Fire Department expressed interest in our 1993 ladder truck. Kevin Taugher stated that the current ladder truck was to be placed in reserve status and, based on a consensus vote, instructed that Chief Authier write a letter to Chief Anderson stating that we cannot sell the truck because of this. Engine 3 will be advertised in the Town Reminder for the next 4 weeks and will be put out to bid. In a conversation between Chief Authier and Chief Anderson, Chief Authier informed him that the motor in Engine 3 is still good and that the Southwick Fire Department might be interested in purchasing Engine 3 for the motor.
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak, to approve the contract for the purchase of the new ladder truck for the amount of \$1,191,175. Unanimous Affirmative Vote. Payment for the truck is normally due upon delivery. The anticipated delivery for the new truck is in the March/April time frame. Motion made by Michael Wozniak, seconded by Bruce Perron, “I move that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment to be financed with the proceeds of the \$1,200,000 Departmental Equipment Bonds authorized by the vote of the District passed on Thursday, December 14, 2017 (Article 1) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c44, section 7 to be as follows: Fire Truck acquisition, with a borrowing amount of \$1,200,000 for a Maximum Useful Life of 20 years.” Unanimous affirmative vote.

- Tighe & Bond has started the design on the floor reinforcement project. The District has also inquired about the cost of temporarily shoring the floor in the event of the new ladder truck being delivered prior to the project's completion. Chief Authier is to follow up with Tighe & Bond to see what the timing will be for completing the floor project.
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak to approve the union contract between South Hadley Fire District 1 and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 5048. Unanimous Affirmative Vote. The estimated annual amount to be added to the budget as a result of approval of the Fire Fighters contract is \$40,000 which will have to be voted on at a Special District Meeting.
- The Clerk/Treasurer stated that a Special District Meeting was required to appropriate funds for the union contract. The tentative special district meeting date is 2/12/18 at 6:30 p.m.
- There was a general discussion and update by the Treasurer of FY 2019 district and fire budgets. Regarding health insurance, there will be two open enrollment periods, one in February and one in April. District health, dental and life insurances had an increase of 3%. The new fire truck, interest and fees have been added to the budget. A regular meeting will be held on 2/8/18 at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station and a regular meeting to finalize the budget will be held on 2/22/18 at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station.
- There was a general discussion on changing the District election to align with the Town election. Michael Wozniak received confirmation from Michelle Tassinari from the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office. In her email she stated that we cannot hand out two ballots at the same time at a combined election. There would have to be two lines in separate sections of the building. In one line, they would receive the Town ballot, vote, and place their ballot in the voting machine for their precinct. The voter would then go to a separate line in the building, receive a District Ballot, vote, and place the District ballot in the same voting machine. Monica also presented bylaw changes developed by Mark Beauregard that would also have to be voted on at the Annual District meeting in April. No special legislation would be required and the only thing District 1 has to do is change our bylaws. Monica is to write up a report laying out District responsibilities versus the Town Clerk's responsibilities and submit it to the Town Clerk and Town Administrator. It's still unclear whether we will need to buy our own voting machines or not.
- There was a general discussion and update on the investigation of combining fire districts and water departments. District 1 is still looking for savings in year one and will continue to pursue getting financial information from District 2. Bruce suggested that we also look at the operational aspects of combining the Districts. Michael Wozniak agreed to act as "point man" for continuing discussions with District 2. Kevin will send out a letter to the chair of District 2 to advise them of our position and our willingness to continue merger discussions.
- Kevin passed out copies from the Office of the Inspector General entitled "Guide for Members of Public Boards". Kevin indicated that the District might be up for an audit from the Office of the Inspector General and asked everyone to read through the "Guide" prior to the next meeting. Moving forward, Kevin will have some recommendations that he will present at the next meeting.
- Regarding the repeal of the "strong chief" bylaw, Kevin stated that it may or may not require a special act of the legislature to repeal the law. Monica is to write a letter to the

Attorney General citing the original bylaw that was passed and cite the vote that was taken at last year's annual meeting. She is to ask if this is sufficient to revert back to the "weak chief" law. If not, what steps have to be taken to change from a "strong chief" to a "weak chief".

- The Chief gave his monthly report. Fire calls for December 2017 were 42 while EMS calls were 208. YTD fire calls for 2017 were 523 while YTD EMS calls were 2,237. There were 19 Business inspections and 16 Smoke/CO inspections. 4 lockboxes were installed. Engine 3 is being advertised in the Town Reminder for a period of 1 month. The bids will be opened on 2/12/18. Firefighter Rork has been granted a disability retirement and call firefighter Stein has ended her leave of absence and resigned. The District is currently interviewing for both fulltime and call positions.
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak to approve the ambulance adjustments for December 2017 in the amount of \$220,745.60. Unanimous Affirmative Vote.
- Monica stated that nomination papers are available and are due back on 3/12/18.
- Motion made by Bruce Perron, seconded by Michael Wozniak to allow the chair to sign the Unibank bonding agreement for the new fire truck based upon the recommendation of the Treasurer. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- The Annual District meeting and election will be held on 4/30/18.
- Motion made by Michael Wozniak, seconded by Bruce Perron to adjourn. Unanimous Affirmative Vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.


Michael J. Wozniak, Prudential Committee Clerk, FD1