

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

Prudential Committee Meeting Notes

Date: 2/22/18

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

This session is being recorded

Call to Order: 6:45 p.m.

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

Guests: David Eisenthal - Unibank,, Bob St. Martin - Tighe & Bond, Attorney Mark Beauregard

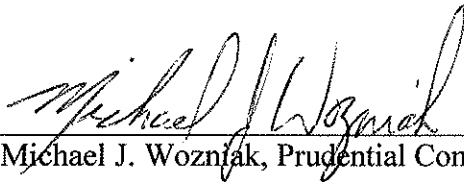
- Call to order
- Signing of warrants authorizing payroll and expense payments.
- David Eisenthal from Unibank Financial Services Inc. presented different options for financing the new fire truck which included general obligation bonds, lease and permanent state house loan notes. If the District went with a general obligation bond, a financial disclosure document would have to be prepared which would take up a significant amount of Monica's time. Another proposal that was discussed was a hybrid plan. Dave will work with Monica to develop this plan which will be presented at the March 1, 2018 Prudential Committee meeting.
- Bob St. Martin from Tighe & Bond provided an update on reinforcing the floor bay. Bob laid out the following time table: 2/28/18 advertise in the central register, 3/7/18 appear in central register, 3/19/18 pre-bid, 3/28/18 bids due, 4/6/18 review bids and make recommendations to award, 4/20/18 Prudential Board approval, 4/27/18 contract awarded, mid-May to end of May- contractor to start work. The Chief originally advised the Prudential Board that the work would be done over the winter when contractors were less likely to be busy. If we were to go the temporary shoring route, it would add approximately \$50,000 to the cost of the project. \$30,000 for additional shoring was in the original bid but if shoring posts have to be taken in and out on a daily basis, it would add approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 in additional costs to do this, but the new truck could be brought in every night. Bob St. Martin stated that there are only two major shoring contractors that do this type of work. According to the Chief, the delivery of the new truck cannot be pushed out any further than the end of April. We were advised that the whole project will take 8 months to complete going back to the start of the bid process in February. It is estimated that the work would be completed sometime in October. The Chief is to develop a

work around plan with Tighe & Bond to manage the project during construction and to also come up with more definitive numbers for the daily shoring that would have to take place if we go that route. Bob St. Martin is to provide a status report to Chief Authier for the next meeting on March 1st.

- Motion made by Michael Wozniak, seconded by Kevin Taugher, to approve the 2/8/18 regular meeting notes. Vote was 2-0, 1 Abstention.
- Kevin stated that Mt. Holyoke College has tentatively agreed to donate \$20,000/year for 10 years for the purchase of the new fire truck. A draft MOU has been developed by Mt. Holyoke College which needs to be reviewed by District counsel. Part of the MOU will contain language that will allow Mt. Holyoke College to back out of the deal. The District will coordinate with Mt. Holyoke College regarding publicity.
- There was a general discussion on changing District elections to align with Town election. A meeting is scheduled on 2/28/18 with Monica, Barbara Miller, Rick Constant, Mike Wozniak, Mark Beauregard, Ed Ryan (via conference call) Mike Sullivan and Carlene Hamlin at Town Hall. We might want to consider having the Annual District Meeting at the Town Hall like last year. The turnout last year was good and the parking situation is a lot better than at the fire station. Monica and Mike Wozniak will bring this up at the meeting with Mike Sullivan on the 28th.
- There was a general discussion regarding the combining of the two fire districts. The plan is to continue discussions on the fire side, but table discussions on the water side for now. Kevin reiterated the need for cost savings if we merge the two districts. If we don't achieve them in the 1st year, we definitely need a plan to show cost savings in the succeeding years. We are still gathering financial and other information at this point and there are some salary issues that we have to address with District 2. Mike Wozniak has forwarded District 1 financial information to Chief Brady and Rick Constant. Mike and Chief Authier are working with Chief Brady and Rick Constant to see if there are any overlap procedures where we could streamline operations between the two districts. Discussions are ongoing.
- Mark Beauregard stated that the weak chief bylaw can be changed. In the case of District 1, we do not need legislative approval to change the bylaw. Mark presented a bylaw change for Section 18 which reads: "The Prudential Board may make regulations governing the fire department and the officers and firemen thereof. The chief shall be in immediate control of all district property used by the fire department; and of the officers and fireman, who shall obey his orders, all pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 48, Section 42A". All that is necessary now is to update the book.
- There was a final review of the FY2019 budget. The total budget for FY2019 is \$4,032,806. Based on the Town valuation staying the same, the tax rate for District 1 would go from \$2.29/\$1000 to \$2.52/\$1000
- As part of the budget review, Monica is seeking an increase in salary. She pointed out that she makes \$62,822 while Barbara Miller who is the District 2 Treasurer/Clerk makes \$74,973 or \$12,091 more than Monica for performing similar duties. Monica also acts as the District

accountant for which she does not get compensated for. Monica feels that the water department should pay 25% of her salary and has talked to Jeff Cyr about that. Kevin is advocating a 3.5% increase which would equate to \$2,198.77. Kevin will talk to Jeff Cyr about a better reapportionment between the fire department and the water department. Monica is looking for a 75% - 25% apportionment between the fire department and the water department.

- There was a very brief discussion about the Chief's salary. Chief Authier stated that he hasn't had a raise in three years. Kevin Taugher and Michael Wozniak pointed out that any discussion regarding a salary increase would have to be tied into the "Position of Fire Chief" document issued on 3/23/17 which outlined the duties and expectations of the Fire Chief. When this document was produced by Michael Wozniak and shown to the Chief, he walked away.
- The next regular meeting will be held on 3/1/18 at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to finalize the bonding options for the new fire truck and to get an update from Tighe & Bond on the floor project. Additionally, there will be another regular meeting held on 3/22/18 at 6:30 at the fire station.
- Motion to adjourn made by Michael Wozniak, seconded by Bruce Perron. Unanimous Affirmative Vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Michael J. Wozniak, Prudential Committee Clerk, FD1