



Three Rivers Fire District  
50 Springfield Street  
Three Rivers, MA 01080

# Prudential Committee Minutes

Chairman Norman Czech called a meeting of the Prudential Committee to order at 6:30 p.m.

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Norman Czech; Prudential Committee Chairman  
Richard Pobiegló; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman  
Andrea Sullivan; Prudential Committee Clerk  
Sherrie Bellefleur; Three Rivers Recording Secretary

Scott Turner; Three Rivers Fire Chief  
Lorinda Baker; Three Rivers District Treasurer  
Nicole Dewberry; Three Rivers Water Superintendent  
Guy Bellefleur; District Clerk

## **Roll Call**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the December 7, 2022, Meeting.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To approve the December 7, 2022, minutes to the Meeting. 3-0-0**

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Committee Reports**

None

## **Report of the Treasurer**

Lorinda Baker: District Treasurer presented the Report of the Treasurer for December 2022

## **Water Department:**

- The receipts for December 2022 were \$5,638 higher than the prior year due to the timing of the October 2022 quarterly bills. The first 6 months of this fiscal year, revenue is \$ 22,384 below last year.
- Profit is down \$ 31,288 due to the revenue drop, the \$ 12,750 engineering on the Tank Project and the increased electric costs (+ \$ 7,700).
- Electricity expense vs. budget is exactly half for the first 6 months; however National Grid just raised rates again. This could be an issue over the second half of the fiscal year.

## **Fire Department:**

- No unusual items through December.

## **District:**

- Insurance is \$ 3,610 over budget, however offsets exist in several accounts.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To approve the report of the Treasurer for December 2022. Approved 3-0-0**

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To approve the Treasurers Warrant for December 2022. Approved 3-0-0**

## **Report of the Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Scott Turner has read his December 2022 Report of the Fire Chief.

## **Message from the Chief:**

Two members were added to the roster in December: Kaylee Robinson and Lucas McDiarmid.

The Department was awarded grant funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for both the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) \$ 1,366 and Senior SAFE \$ 742.00.

Chairman Norman Czech asked about this grant money and where does it go. The S.A.F.E. grant goes for Pathfinder mainly. In July there is a program for younger children. The S.A.F.E. trailer is brought there along with handing out fire prevention materials and giving tours of the fire truck.

The Senior SAFE grant money is used for different fire prevention material, information and also smoke detectors.

Chief also states that we do have a SAFE Officer.

## **Operations:**

- **Emergency Incident response:** The department was dispatched to 27 emergency incidents for the month. These incidents include 2 Fires, 15 Rescue & EMS incidents, 2 Hazardous Condition (no fire), 1 Service Call, 3 Good Intent and 4 False Alarm & False Calls.
- **Service Calls:** 19. These calls include fire safety inspections, smoke & CO alarm installations, open burning regulations, assisting town agencies and fire safety code inquiries.

## **Apparatus and Equipment:**

- Car 2; 2005 Chevy Tahoe is out of service 8/27, Engine 2; 1995 KME is reserve 10/01, Rescue 1; 2001 American LaFrance is Out of Service 11/15, and all the rest is in service.

## **Fire Prevention:**

- 5 pre-sale home inspections and 1 installation for Senior S.A.F.E. Programs.
- Annual Bar Inspections completed.

## **Training:**

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS), training with Kenneth Knowles, MD., Medical Director.
- Duty Crew members continued to improve their knowledge, skill and abilities by training on fire behavior incident command, ground ladders, vertical ventilation, rope rescue and hydrant operations.

## **Events:**

- Christmas on the Common, Palmer Movie Night, AMVETS Christmas Party and Palmer Santa Parade.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Fire Chief Scott Turner for December 2022. Approved 3-0-0**

## **Discussion to selling the Rescue Truck:**

- Chief would like to get rid of the Rescue Truck and replace it with something more efficient. Since 2020 the district has spent \$5,724.33 on repairs. Prior to 2020 this we have spent close to \$10,000. The truck was purchased in 2013. Currently out of service for 86 days due to the brakes (brakes froze up). Chief has been holding off on these repairs in hopes to sell this truck. Chief has received an email from Mark Hooper @ Specialty Vehicles in reference to an ambulance that has come from the Cape that is for sale. Mark has offered Chief \$5,000 for the Rescue Truck and is willing to sell the ambulance to us as a rescue vehicle that would include lettering that reads Three Rivers Fire Department Rescue instead of Ambulance. The cost of this vehicle would be \$62,000 less the \$5,000 for the rescue leaving us owing \$57,000. This vehicle has 109,000 miles with the body looking like brand new. Chief says 109,000 miles for medical calls is really not a lot. Chief would like to use this vehicle for emergency medical services (not transporting, we currently do not have a transporting license). It is an ambulance license but a non-transport one. Chief made it very clear to Palmer Ambulance they will be providing backup only not taking over their calls. A discussion took place about the funding for this purchase. The approval to sell the rescue truck for \$5,000 is a definite go ahead but moving ahead to purchase will take some time. Chairman Czech recommends this waits until May, if possible, otherwise a date for a special meeting would have to be set if it cannot wait until May. The steps are going through the finance committee, publishing, and posting it. This will all take more than a few weeks anyways. With what funds are available borrowing may not have to happen but the whole process still must go through meetings, publishing and posting first. Things are left with the Chief having to ask Mark Hooper if this can wait until May, once we have that answer we can then go from there.

## **Report of the Water Superintendent**

Nicole Newberry presented the Report of the Water Superintendent for December 2022.

### **Status of water systems:**

- Mac passed the Treatment 1 (T1) exam. Once his T1 license comes in Nicole and Mac will be permitted to monitor the pump station independently. At this time, Nicole will begin to work a typical schedule of Sunday – Thursday allowing Mac to have Sundays and Monday's off.
- We now have a federal SAM number for Three Rivers Fire District for both Fire and Water Departments. We did already pay the engineer's bill, so it is too late to apply for the USDA's grant, but at least we'll have this federal number ready for future use.
- As a result of the DEP's Sanitary Survey a few months ago, there are a list of corrective actions, three of which were due by the end of 2022.
  - Provide written notice that a chemical containment palate, or other acceptable form of containment has been provided.
  - Provide written notice that the annual rooftop inspection for each water storage tank is complete. (Craig Goodreau volunteered his time to help complete part of this with his drone).
  - Ensure that the blow off of Well #3 has been located and is determined to be sufficiently designed to prevent backflow into the well pit.

*Regarding that last point, it was asked if it was okay for the Water Department to remove the pressure regulator from the pit of Well # 3? It is highly unlikely that this will have any impact but, if it does, then pressure could build up in the system and cause a break. This is highly unlikely since the pressure in the system is relieved at the overflow of the water storage tanks. Once removed and capped at both ends, it would create an air gap which should resolve DEP's corrective action.*

*To go into the pit someone with confined space training would need to be outside while another person went into the pit. A short discussion took place about finding one with this confined space training.*

*Ms. Dewberry feels if she can "show progress" on this DEP would be happy to see at least that right now.*

### **Update on Tank Project:**

- A restricted Project Approval Certificate (PAC) for the State Revolving Fund loan has been received. The certificate means we will receive the loan. The restricted part means that we have yet to submit the project design and other paperwork.

### **Thorndike Water:**

- Revise their water purchase agreement? Chairman Norman Czech asked Ms. Dewberry to find out how much water do we sell Thorndike.

### **Vacation Time:**

- Water Superintendent Nicole Dewberry asked the Board if they would be willing to let Samantha Hoy borrow 1 week of paid vacation from year 2 to use in year 1. The Board has said that she may take a week off, but it will be without pay in her first year. In year 2 she will receive 2 weeks of paid vacation time.

### **Annual Wage Review:**

- Reviewing wage rates will take place since they have not been reviewed since September 2021. Mary Ann Duguay has been consulting still in areas still needed. Ms. Dewberry would like to request that she be paid. This will be reviewed, and a decision will be made next month.

The broken garage door was brought up pertaining to added expenses and the cost it will be to repair this door. This door is located at the Water Department shop. Instructions were given out to contact a couple of people to get a price on repairing this door.

- **Cell Tower Project:**

- Revisions are being submitted to Brad's legal department and then will prepare a final version of the contract to be signed. This could take some time internally.
- If you would like to sign this can be done when the final version is ready. Until then if you would like to meet and discuss anything with Brad, he is willing to meet with the Board. Brad still needs to confirm a carrier as a tenant.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for December 2022. Approved. 3-0-0**

**New Business:**

- **Budget Discussions:**
  - Chairman Norman Czech asked all to think about any budgets for 2023/2024 that may need to be increased.

**Board Members Comments:**

- Committee Clerk Andrea Sullivan presented the Committee with a letter of concern about the continued harassment and slander of our Three Rivers Fire Chief Scott Turner and the Fire Department Personnel. *This letter has been attached to these minutes.*

**Old Business:**

None

**Discuss and/or take action on any business unknown/unavailable prior to the posting of this agenda:**

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:40 pm. Approved 3-0-0**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_