



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

# Prudential Committee Minutes

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

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Chiacchia; Prudential Committee Chairman  
Norman Czech; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman  
Richard Pobieglo; Prudential Committee Clerk

Scott Turner; Three Rivers Fire Chief  
Chris Connolly; Three Rivers Water Superintendent  
Sherrie Bellefleur; District Recording Secretary  
Nicole Newberry; Water Department

Absent from this evening's meeting was District Treasurer; Lorinda Baker and District Clerk; David Basler.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the December 7, 2021, Open Meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To approve the December 7, 2021, minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0**

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the November 10, 2021, Open Meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To approve the November 10, 2021, minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0**

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the January 6, 2022, Open Meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To approve the January 6, 2022, minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0**

## Public Comment

Michael Matthieu asked Fire Chief Turner if he has been in contact with Granby Fire to set up training in their burn building. Chief Turner responded that he is currently still working on this. Matthieu then went on to say that he was in contact with the Granby Fire and Granby Fire has told him that Chief Turner has not even tried to contact them yet. Matthieu stressed his concern is there are guys on TRFD that have not actually been in a burning fire, and they need that type of training.

Michael Matthieu inquired if there is still the rule of no drinking at bars with fire department logos on their clothing. Chief responded that the rule is still in place. Matthieu went on to say that he was told that a firefighter collecting their refund at a local establishment was seen sitting and drinking a beer. Board member Pobieglo states he also received a phone call about this same thing. Chief Turner would like to know why this individual, filing the complaint is not at this evening's meeting. Vice Chairman Czech stressed that unless someone comes forward the complaint is just hearsay.

Chief asked Richard Pobieglo if he has evidence of this. Pobieglo states he received a phone call from a witness.

Chairman Chiacchia suggests that Chief Turner do some investigating and report back at the next meeting. Chief has already investigated this, and his findings were to be explained, but prior to explaining Czech states that anything of a personal matter should be discussed in Executive Session and not at an open meeting but Chief assures the Board that the individual in question would like the discussion to take place at an open meeting. First off after investigating the complaint that is already on record, the individual does not even drink beer. Other alcohol may be consumed by the individual but that is on a rare occasion. The beer at this complaint was being consumed by the individual in questions significant other and Chief Turner has witnesses of this.

Chief has proof of this unlike the individuals that brought up the complaint based on a phone call and not having witnessed this themselves. Chief feels that a relative of Mr. Matthieu began this complaint all hearsay based on ongoing "issues" that Mr. Matthieu recently has with the Chief.

The individuals filing the complain are requested to be at the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Finance Committee: None but will be coming up very soon.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer was not present at this evening's meeting. She left the trial balance for December 2021, but no report was attached. The Board reviewed what was given and Lorinda will report on this at our next monthly meeting.

**MOTION (POBIEGLO; CZECH): To accept the Report of the Treasurer for December 2021. 3-0-0**

### **Report of the Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Scott Turner read the report of the Fire Chief for December 2021.

#### **OPERATIONS:**

14 emergency incidents.

10 non-emergency service calls.

#### **TRAINING:**

**Department:** Ladder Company Operations.

**Duty Crew:** Fire attack, high rise hose deployment, pump operations, pre-planning at Palmer Technology Center, search and rescue, vehicle fires, 2 ½ inch hoseline deployment, ground monitor, forcible entry, relay pumping, rappelling, rope rescue.

#### **EVENTS:**

- Christmas on the Common
- Pancakes with Santa – Ladies Auxiliary
- Deliver Santa to Amvets
- Deliver buckets of salt/sand mixture for Sand for Seniors.

#### **FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION:**

- Annual Bar Inspections with Building Inspector
- 3 pre-sale home inspections
- 1 oil tank installation inspection
- 1 liquid propane gas (LPG) inspection

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

- Meetings: Palmer Fire Chiefs. Boy Scouts Explorer District Representative.

Board member Richard Pobieglo asked Chief what his policy is for a structure fire. All three (3) towns are toned out when there is a structure fire. Chief Turner was in control of the scene which was on Main Street in Three Rivers. Palmer Fire's ladder truck arrived at the scene but there was no fire present at the exterior of the building. Palmer did not arrive first on scene, they were the third apparatus on scene. Chief assured Pobieglo that all his drivers know how to operate the pumps. Pobieglo had heard another had to pump for our truck. Chief said that was not the case. Pobieglo heard otherwise so maybe this individual also will need to attend the meeting to confirm. Palmer's instructions were to check the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Palmer had to go through the kitchen area to get to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. These firefighters did not have a hand line they had thermal cameras, they were searching on the way in, it was already confirmed that the occupants were out of the building. The fire was clearly in the walls. Three Rivers Engine 1 was first on the scene and went right inside to attack the kitchen. Palmer was going to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to check for extension and Bondsville provided water supply and was the back up line to go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor if needed. Pobieglo asked if when each truck arrives on scene if they call that into dispatch and their times arriving. Chief says they announce that they are on the scene. Chief was first on scene. Pobieglo says according to the 4 Corners report Chief arrived on scene at 6:44 pm after being dispatched out at 6:41 pm. Chief did go on to explain that the dispatch at 4 corners times is off from actual. The times that 4

corners put on their reports is the actual time the dispatcher make the entry into the computer. When the button is pushed to dispatch the fire department it does not track that time that the button is pushed it tracks the time once they manually enter it into the computer. The Three Rivers Fire Dispatcher would have their own times that a truck was toned out. Pobieгло has requested from Chief a copy of this report from the fire department. Pobieгло wants to see if the times match up. Chief states they will not match. The firefighters have a text messaging alert system on their phones. When the pager goes off that there is an alert, they get a message on their phones at the exact same time that the tone goes off. Then after that comes another alert that announces the message. The pagers went off at 6:39 pm. But you see the police dispatcher notes 6:41 pm. That is when they entered it into the computer, but the tones went off 2 minutes earlier. Pobieгло looks over the times once more and brings attention to the time it took Chief to get to the scene, bringing to light the amount of 2 ½ minutes total. Chief had 5 guys show up for this call. Pobieгло asked how many of the 5 guys were from Ludlow. Chief feels that was not relevant, but Pobieгло says it is relevant because of the time and the ability to pump a pumper.

No injuries in the fire other than one resident going to the hospital to get checked out with burns to his hands. The kitchen fire from the time on the scene until the fire was knocked down was between 5 and 7 minutes in total. Chairman Chiacchia formally thanked the fire department for doing such a great job at this fire.

Chief Turner feels that because this questioning is becoming a regular occurrence, he has requested all audiotapes going back to June 2021 through to tonight's meeting. It is felt that this is teetering on a harassment charge of a public official so records of all that has been said is requested. Pobieгло has asked if this is like the ethics event that he recently had his hand slapped for.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Fire Chief Scott Turner for December 2021. Approved 3-0-0**

### **Report of the Water Superintendent**

Water Superintendent Chris Connolly read his report of December 2021.

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

- Up to date with all monthly and quarterly samples.
- The permit application for chemical addition of sodium hypochlorite has been completed by McClure Engineering and submitted to DEP for review. Pending approval, we will begin production on well #1.
- David Majka from Palmer Water is retiring at the end of January leaving his position as Water Superintendent of Palmer Water District available. The Palmer Water Commissioners have offered Chris Connolly the position of Water Superintendent. Connolly has not formally accepted any offers as he would like to discuss a succession plan with the board. The DEP cares a lot about the staffing plan. It is important that we have a primary operator on site. They do not want to see Connolly as the Primary Operator for both systems. We can apply for a temporary emergency certification giving Nicole Newberry the ability to run the system and Connolly would become the secondary operator and stay with the TRWD for now to assist and help out Nicole. This application can be done and obtained relatively quickly says Connolly. The certification comes from the Licensing Board, but the Chairman of the Licensing Board works with the DEP, so they work together on something like this. They understand that staffing operations change, and this is a way to ratify these problems by keeping enough staffing in place. Chairman asked Nicole if this temporary licensing is for the time of now until Nicole can obtain the proper licensing on her own, and this is exactly the plan according to Connolly. Chairman thinks it is great that Connolly has been proactive with all this. He also offers to help find trainees or operations to work with Nicole. Connolly plans to start with Palmer on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Until we have the temporary license Nicole can work under Chris's, but it really should not take long at all to get this. Connolly says formality wise an administrative order may be issued saying we need to have a Primary Operator in place, but he is already on this, and we are already aware of all that needs to be done.

The Board wants to acknowledge the great job Water Superintendent Chris Connolly has done. When Chris first came on there was quite a bit of work to do to rebuild our Water Department and Pump Stations and getting all the DEP reporting going properly. Connolly came into a firestorm and working with Chris McClure and others turned the Water Department around and the Board appreciates that. "Thank You"

Chris responded saying it's been a great place to work, and he's enjoyed his time here. He's not gone yet, he still wants to be involved in helping Nicole transition over smoothly.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for December 2021 as read by Chris Connolly. Approved. 3-0-0**

**New Business:**

- None

**Old Business:**

- None

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

- None

**Board Members Comments:**

- Chairman Chiacchia thanked Nicole Newberry for attending this evenings meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:06 p.m. Approved 3-0-0**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Chiacchia, Chairman

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

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