



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
Stephen Chiacchia; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman
Richard Pobiegly; Prudential Committee Clerk

Christopher Connolly; Water Superintendent
Scott Turner; Fire Chief
David Basler; District Clerk
Sherrie Bellefleur; District Recording Secretary

Absent from this evening's meeting was Lorinda Baker; Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the January 8, 2020 Open Meeting.

MOTION (CHACCHIA; POBIEGLO): To approve the January 8, 2020 minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Treasurer

Review of January 2020 Financial Reports:

Treasurer Lorinda Baker was absent but Vice Chairman Stephen Chiacchia presented the January 2020 Financial Statements.

January 2020:

Water Department: Water Receipts for January 2020 are higher than 2019 by \$1,374 and the Net Income as of January 2020 is \$8,608 higher. The YTD Water Receipts fall at \$269,682 compared to the prior year that were at \$249,629 bringing Water Receipts up \$20,054.

Chairman Czech asked where the money for the water increase would go and Chiacchia replied saying the whole \$0.50 increase would go in the stabilization fund for capital expenditures. It has not been done yet but should happen by the end of the fiscal year. There is \$10,000 due from the Water Dept. to the Fire Dept. that was discussed. The amount due has not been paid back yet and the amounts on the balance sheet are in question so this will be asked to the District Accountant for clarification. Resulting in communication will be directed to Stephen Marhelewicz to pay the \$10,000 that is still owed.

Fire Department: No issues to report, all within budget.

District: No issues to report, expenses are well under budget.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHACCHIA): To accept the Report of the Treasurer for January 2020. 3-0-0

MOTION (CHACCHIA; POBIEGLO): To accept the Treasurers Warrant for January 2020. 3-0-0

Report of the Fire Chief

Three Rivers Fire Chief Scott Turner presented his report for January 2020.

Calls and Activity for the month of January 2020:

Operations Calls/Incidents:

- **18 incidents:** 2 Fires; 6 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service; 1 Hazardous Condition (no fire); 3 Service Call; 3 Good Intent Call; 3 False Alarm & False Call.

Training:

- **Department:** Train safety, Firefighter Survival Skills and Ladders.
- **Duty Crew:** Dispatch, Driver Training and Airbags.

Events:

- Christmas Tree Burning at Pulaski Park.

Fire Prevention:

- 5 Pre-sale home inspections.

Administration:

- **Meetings:** Dr. Knowles of Baystate for Affiliation Renewal.
- **General:** Met with department members regarding general orders, organize wildland fire training weekend on Skura Lane Property in the Spring.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Fire Chief as read by the Fire Chief Scott Turner. 3-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Water Superintendent Chris Connolly presented his report.

Status of water systems:

- There are no distribution or treatment problems to report.
- Monthly and Quarterly water samples and chemical addition forms required by Mass DEP are all up to date.

District Records Overflow - Payroll:

- Accountant Stephen Marhelewicz has a secure backup of the payroll portion of the District Records but no one else has a copy of this yet.

Discuss Water Agreement with Bondsville & Three Rivers Water Department:

- The draft letter has been returned from Atty. Christine Pikula with her recommendations. Chiacchia comments that this is a "draft" and points out that it references Bondsville supplying Three Rivers water but says nothing about Three Rivers supplying Bondsville water. A short discussion took place about various wordings in this draft that need to be changed. Also talks took place in reference to the rates that will be part of this agreement; this involving what we will charge and what we will be charged. Connolly assures the Committee that he himself can adjust the wording to properly fit our understanding of this agreement. Chairman Czech feels the changes to be made are minor which means that Connolly could make them himself without sending the draft back to the Atty. Connolly assures the Board he will have the draft back to them, with the changes by Friday, 2/14/2020.
- David LaVallie requested to meet with the Three Rivers Prudential Committee on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Bondsville Fire Department. The Committee agrees to meet next week.
- Clerk Pobieglo asked for permission from the Board to invite John Sasur to the signing of this agreement since he was instrumental with this whole project. There was no opposition to this request.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; POBIEGLO): To accept the Bondsville & Three Rivers Agreement; with the proposed changes. Approved. 3-0-0

Mass DEP Sanitary Survey:

- The survey was distributed to the Board for review and discussion. The response from Mass DEP is they produced a table of findings; Table A and Table B. We did not have anything under Table A. Table B talks about the Capital Improvement Plan. They would like us to continue working with it.
Rate Study; to find a rate that is going to be attainable for our Capital Improvement Plan, to fund the projects that need to be done in the future. They are giving us 1 ½ yrs. to do this (June 30, 2021). A short discussion took place on the rate study request. One quote already obtained for a rate study would be about \$8,000. Chairman Czech feels that is a very high amount for a rate study. Chiacchia feels we should get quotes.
Staffing Plan; this has already been updated and is included in the response.
Control Box; replacement that is attached to our storage tank, it holds the telemetry system, this is outdated 1960's equipment. Agreement to move forward on this, discussions have taken place on this already with the board.

Provide written notice that isolation valves have been repaired and replaced. Connolly feels they are working okay but should be exercised.

ASR 2018 and numbers of backflow devices; the number listed looks somewhat off. Distribution protection, list how many devices that are in town for backflow protection. The numbers looked off, so they wanted us to double check on these. Unaccounted water; we exceeded our 10% of unaccounted for water so were supposed to write our reason why. Reasons why is we had a lot of leaks. Chris's first year here we were losing 40% of our water and after 1 year were only losing 19% of our water then last year were at a loss of only 8 to 10%. There is nothing we need to do except keep working on improving this. Chris did respond to them on this and his reasons why.

Target PH Range.

This survey was completed 9/30/2019 by the Mass DEP. They responded back to us January 21, 2020.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent as read by Chris Connolly. Approved. 3-0-0

New Business:

Mass DEP-Sanitary Survey has been discussed with the Report of the Water Superintendent above.

Old Business:

Water agreement with Bondsville has been discussed with the Report of the Water Superintendent above.

Discuss Attorney bill pending lawsuit: The final amount due to settle is \$16,000. If the District does not pay \$16,000 and settle, then it will go to court. If this happens the amount would exceed \$16,000. It is wise to settle by paying \$8,000 in this fiscal year and \$8,000 in the next fiscal year.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; POBIEGLO): To accept the proposal that the attorney presented which is to settle for \$16,000, without interest, in two installments of \$8,000 each, one this fiscal year (2020) and one in the next fiscal year (2021). Approved 3-0-0

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

The Accountants office questioned when to pay the Finance Committee. The Committee agrees to pay the Finance Committee once all meetings have been completed. All meetings have been completed so Chairman will notify Dave it is okay to pay.

Board Members Comments:

Financial condition is getting better and better states Chiacchia.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:27 p.m. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____