



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

Prudential Committee Minutes

February 19, 2025

Chairman Norman Czech called a meeting of the Prudential Committee to order at 7:45 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Norman Czech; Prudential Committee Chairman
Andrea Sullivan; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman
Mark Bogacz; Prudential Committee Clerk
Steve Nodurf; Fire Chief

Nicole Dewberry; Water Superintendent
Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer
Sherrie Bellefleur; Recording Secretary
Guy Bellefleur; District Clerk

Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Minutes

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved of the minutes from the January 15, 2025, meeting.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): Approved January 15, 2025, minutes to the meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Treasurer

Lorinda Baker read her Report of the Treasurer for January 2025.

Water Department:

- YTD Receipts- Receipts/Total Income for the first 6 months of "FY 2025" were \$341,841.23 (a decrease of \$20,352.35 for the first 6 months of "FY 2024").
- YTD Expenses-Total Expenses for the first 6 months of "FY 2025" were \$294,965.54 (a decrease of \$10,216.57 for the first 6 months of "FY 2024").
- YTD Net Income for the first 6 months of "FY 2025" was \$46,875.69 (a decrease of \$10,216.57 for the first 6 months of "FY 2024").
- Receipts/Total Income for January 2025 were \$67,200.84 (an increase of \$11,524.62 over January 2024).
- Expenses for January 2025 were \$27,331.91 (a decrease of \$25,094.19 from January 2024).
- Net Income for January 2025 was \$39,868.93 (an increase of \$36,618.81 over January 2024).
- All expense accounts are under budget except for Meters 6370 by \$277.80.

Fire Department:

- All expense accounts are under budget except for Fire Apparatus Maintenance by \$73.01 and Fire Department Expenses by \$307.97.

District:

- No issues

MOTION (BOGACZ; SULLIVAN): To accept the Treasurers Report for January 2025. Approved. 3-0-0

MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): To accept the Treasurers Warrant for January 2025. Approved. 3-0-0

Report of the Fire Chief

Fire Chief Steve Nodurf read his Report of the Fire Chief for January 2025.

Chief Nodurf asked to speak about an Apparatus. From 7/1/2024 – Current times Engine 202 has been on 12 calls.

Most of those 12 calls were as personal carriers. Engine 2 has taken almost half of the total repair budget. The Chief would like to take Engine 2 out of service. If Engine 2 went out of service, it would 1. free up the space, allowing the rescue to be put inside and 2. A former employee has reached out to Chief Nodurf looking to rent a bay for an ambulance and would be willing to pay the district money. Ms. Sullivan asked if insurance would be needed and Chief Nodurf said he would inquire about this. The Board is very receptive to the idea of renting out the bay so the Chief will continue gathering more information on this.

The next subject Chief Nodurf wanted to discuss was Radios. The Police Department is in the process of redoing their entire radio system. The 3 Fire Departments sat down with the communications company that is doing the work at Palmer PD. They put together a proposal to upgrade the fire side of things townwide, including 4 districts. We can piggyback on some of the labor that is already happening. What the work would entail for Three Rivers is new digital compatible but not digital yet, repeaters on Hovey, the Police Department and Old Warren Road. All the installation, maintenance and monitoring. The cost is projected to be \$675.00/tower/month.

Chief Nodurf asked how he could get rid of the Brush Truck. He's got 3 people interested already. Chairman Czech thought there may be something about how to do this in the bylaws. No one is really sure so this will have to be looked into before proceeding in getting rid of it.

Chairman Czech says the budget for Fire will add a line item for fire prevention in the amount of \$2,500.00.

January 2025**Administration:**

- Civil Rights Evaluation Tool
- Budget work
- Chief Officer Class
- Emergency Networking

Emergency Responses:

- 7 EMS Emergency Responses
- 4 Fire Emergency Responses
- 1 Hazardous Condition Responses
- 4 Service Call/Good Intent Call

Fire Prevention/Education:

- 2 26F Presale Inspections
- 1 Photovoltaic Inspection
- 6 Open Burn Permits

Operations:

- None listed

Training:

- Ice Rescue
- Hoseline Deployment
- Ladder Training
- EMS Skills

Events:

- None listed

MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): To accept the report of the Fire Chief for January 2025. Approved 3-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Nicole Dewberry read her Report of the Water Superintendent for January 2025

Status of the Water System

- Worked with Tom Gregoire to replace the hydrant on the corner of Kelley St. and High St.
- A service line became disconnected on Chestnut St. To get ready for the repair, Ms. Dewberry exercised the valve to the street, and it broke. When digging this up to fix, it was found to be a wheel valve. Wheel valves are prone to breaking. While it took a few days, everything is now fixed. A few years ago, Chris had a valve break in that neighborhood also. It may be a good idea to plan to replace the 2" mains in this neighborhood in the future says Ms. Dewberry.
- During the cold weather, Rich and Ms. Dewberry addressed some other calls about broken or frozen service lines. Fire Chief Steve Nodurf helped with a frozen line too. Ms. Dewberry added she did reiterate the call order again.
- In preparation for DEP's visit this year, Ms. Dewberry revised and updated the Operations Manual for the department.
- Jon from Mass Rural Water came and helped replace the chemical transfer pumps that were ordered a few months ago. They kept the same motors.

Block Grant

- The Community Development Department is going to begin a new application process, in hopes of earning more grant money to expand upon their work that is to begin this year on Maple St. and Maple Terr. To create a more convincing application, they were wondering if you would like to suggest an amount of money that may be contributed to the project, up to the amount of \$10,000. It is important to note that this money would not necessarily be obligated to the project, rather, it would be available "just in case" the grant money should fall short during the 2026 construction. *A short time discussing this project and this request resulted in the answer that we just do not have the money to appropriate for this. It is not possible so the answer is no.*

MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for January 2025. Approved 3-0-0

Board Members Comments:

None

New Business:

Discuss Payroll Services:

Paychecks has been the payroll service that our current accountant has been in touch with. There is an annual cost of \$3,000 to \$4,000 including direct deposit, payroll tax forms and all other payroll related filings. An estimated number of employees was discussed. This is 14 fire/water departments, 1 monthly check and 5 semi-annual, adding also the Finance Committee that consists of 7. Ms. Baker suggests keeping the Finance Committee off the payroll and just having the accountant cut a check for their meeting. This would be approximately 20 employees that would be paid out of the Paychecks payroll service.

New Accountant:

Ms. Baker reached out to Palmer Fire to see who they used for an accountant. It was said that Palmer used the same accountant as Three Rivers so possibly let us look into seeing if they want to join forces and go in to a new accountant together. Chairman Czech adds by mentioning Steve Nagy from Bondsville, he currently is the Accountant/District Clerk/Treasurer. Ms. Baker will reach out to Steve Nagy. Another that will be reached out to is located in Ware, Chantel Bleau.

Interconnection:

Chairman Czech has the new agreements with Bondsville Fire and Water for their interconnection. Signatures were needed from the Board to renew this agreement.

Water Rate Increase:

Increasing the water rate discussion has been tabled.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): To table the water rate increase discussion. Approved 3-0-0

Old Business:

None

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

Ms. Sullivan brought up a rumor she'd heard that was about Thorndike Water being in financial trouble and they are asking for immigration of the water districts (Bondsville, Thorndike and Three Rivers). Also heard something about a letter from the Planning Board. Again this is rumor but Chairman Czech will check with the Planning office.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 8:55 pm. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____