



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
Andrea Sullivan; Prudential Committee Clerk
Steve Nodurf; Three Rivers Interim Fire Chief

Nicole Dewberry; Three Rivers Water Superintendent
Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer
Sherrie Bellefleur; Three Rivers Recording Secretary

Roll Call

Stephen Chiacchia: Prudential Committee Vice Chairman is attending the meeting via conference call.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the January 17, 2024, meeting.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To approve the January 17, 2024, minutes to the meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Treasurer

Lorinda Baker: District Treasurer read the report of the treasurer for January 2024.

Water Department:

- Income for 1/2024 was \$ 51,018.22 (a decrease of \$ 6,950.57 from 1/2023).
- Expenses for 1/2024 were \$ 52,246.10 (an increase of \$ 19,807.66 from 1/2023). This is due to Repairs (\$10,062.16) and Meter Replacement (\$11,799.84).
- 1/2024 Net Income is - \$ 1,407.88 (a decrease of \$ 26,758.23) due to Repairs and Meter Replacement expenses.
- Fiscal YTD Income is \$357,535.58 (an increase of \$ 63,825.32 higher than July 2022 – January 2023).

Fire Department:

- No Issues

District:

- No Issues

Vice Chairman Steve Chiacchia has asked Ms. Baker to look into purchasing more CD's. We have a 9-month CD for \$200,000 but he suggests we purchase at least 2 more at \$ 50,000 for each CD.

Ms. Baker will speak to the District Accountant Steve Marhelewicz about this on the day following this meeting. In a quick search with Google, it appears that North Brookfield Savings is at 4.65% for a 7-month CD while Country Bank is 5.11% for a 6-month CD.

Mr. Chiacchia has also stated that the Financials for YTD Water look good.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To accept the Treasurers Report for January 2024. Approved. 3-0-0

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To accept the Treasurers Warrant for January 2024. Approved. 3-0-0

Report of the Fire Chief

Fire Chief Steve Nodurf read his January 2024 Report of the Fire Chief.

Administration:

- Budget preparation FY2024
- Develop a Capital Growth Plan
- ESO Upgrade Work
- EMS Upgrade Project
- Monthly EMS Meeting
- Met with the Town Administrator

Fire Prevention/Education:

- Code Enforcement: 66 Mountain View and with Building Commissioner
- Annual Inspection at Listed Businesses: Mustang, Halpern Titanium, Millennium Die, and Sunshine Village
- Cease and desist lifted for Public Petroleum
- Finalize Annual Inspection, Burgundy Brook
- Follow-up with Sherman Oil on work to be completed.
- 5 – 26F Pre-sale Inspections
- 1 – Oil Burner Inspection
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Operations:

- 23-Emergency incidents
- 3-Non-Emergency Service Calls
- Station Coverage for Wilbraham Fire Department

Training:

- Engine Company Operations Drafting and Water Supply
- Vehicle Lock-Out Training
- Firefighter 1 Qualifications
- Ropes & Knots

Events:

- Overnight Duty Shift for Storm Response
- Hampden County School of Science Lecture

Congratulations to Chief Nodurf on his achievement of securing two Grants. One in the amount of \$12,500 for equipment and \$1,934 for EAD (external automatic defibrillator).

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Fire Chief Steve Nodurf for January 2024. Approved 3-0-0

Ms. Sullivan asked about the Free Cash or Stabilization Account. Free cash is determined by the Commonwealth of Mass., but we do not have this years numbers yet. Lorinda was just informed of this, so she plans to tell the board what it is later this evening.

Report of the Water Superintendent

Nicole Newberry read her Report of the Water Superintendent for January 2024.

Status of Water Systems:

- The hydrant at the old Unicore building on Chamber Road was repaired. Jon from Mass Rural Water listened to it and confirmed that the leak was now gone. Currently all hydrants are operational, although a plan to replace the wearable parts on additional “worn out” hydrants is in place when the weather improves.
- The DEP is no longer requiring us to test for Synthetic Organic Compounds. Previously, we were required to submit samples for this test once every three years.
- Sam is continuing to work on the transition to the new billing software. From our most recent conversation with VADAR, we expect that this transition will be complete soon.
- Rich and Mac are continuing their work on the service line inventory for DEP. Thanks to Andrea for posting a notice about this project on Facebook to remind residents about this project. As a result, some have mentioned the notice and have been quite cooperative.
- Mac and I have been listening in on some online meetings lately about upcoming service line inventory rules, and on federal PFAS regulations that are coming up soon. Further information about these should be made available later on this year.
- There is a wet spot in the road in front of 344 Springfield Street that, according to the neighbors, has been there for years, likely because of the high groundwater in the area. We have been watching it and it has worsened. Jon from Mass Rural Water brought his leak detection equipment and could hear something but could not pinpoint the location of it. Tom helped us to repair a curb box, and he helped us to do some further searching. We were surprised to find that there was a leak at a house further up the hill. We repaired it, and we’re going to ask Jon to return when he is in the neighborhood to listen and confirm that there aren’t any other leaks in the area.

Tank Project

- Decisions about the bill that we received from McClure? Everyone agreed to do nothing with this bill and most likely it is an automatic billing that goes out at the end of the year if we still have a balance due.
- I submitted my written appeal and presented my oral appeal for the SRF grant. DEP stated during the public comment period that they will not provide responses to anyone who has made an appeal and, therefore, I do not know when we will learn any further information from them, if at all.
Chairman Czech asked Ms. Dewberry to contact the two people that we were working with previously and ask them if they have any comment.
- I am still working with the USDA on their grant application process.

Sodium Lab Results

MassDEP categorizes sodium as:

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

The ORSG for sodium is 20 mg/L, and our sodium in 2023 for Well #1 was 49 mg/L. As you can see, this is more than twice as high as what DEP would like to see, and this is also higher than previous years’ results.

DEP does not treat sodium and other ORSGs with the same level of alarm as they do other exceedances. As such, I asked an engineer for his opinion, and he said that DEP may get involved if results are at 50 mg/L or above. He said that sodium in drinking water is typically due to road salt.

Ms. Dewberry sent an email to Matthew at the DPW explaining the above information to him. She said that he is under no obligation to react. She suggested that either the amount of sodium may be reduced or that a substitute may be used, all while still ensuring road safety. She did not receive a reply to this email.

Be aware that if the levels of sodium increase in the future, then, according to the engineer, it is possible that DEP will ask us to install a treatment process for sodium. We do not have much available space remaining within our tiny pump station. Plus, another treatment process would be an additional expense. In general, towns have increased their use of road salts over the years, As a result, water departments are increasingly being asked by DEP to remove it. If I remember correctly, I believe that Chicopee uses potassium acetate and, although it costs more than salt, it is also more effective than road salt and so less of it is required, keeping the expense comparable to salt. With that said, she does not know if potassium acetate is a good thing or a bad thing to find in drinking water (but I

would be willing to look into it if there is interest). Also, another possible option is to continue to use salt but in liquid form where, again, much less is required. There may be other possibilities too, but these are two that she is aware of.

If the sodium remains the same or decreases, then it may be fine. However, if sodium increases, then DEP may become involved. While it is not known what will occur in the future, she does believe that the best preventative measure would be to address the amount and possibly the type of road treatment. Ms. Dewberry asked if the Board wishes her to take any preventative steps.

A discussion took place on this considering the fact that it could be just for the treatment of the roads during the winter months. It was also mentioned that maybe take another test later in the season to see if results are better. The Board also agreed to talk to the DPW and then the Town Manager about the treatment of the roads.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for January 2024. Approved 3-0-0

Board Members Comments:

None

New Business:

Abatement request from the homeowner of 2098 Palmer Road. Requesting a full year abatement being the apartment has been vacant since February 2023, and an adjustment going forward until she’s able to rent the apartment out. The Board has denied any abatement to the homeowner.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To not reimburse the homeowner of 2098 Palmer Road Account #10217. Approved 3-0-0

Screening Committee discussion is being tabled at this time.

Old Business:

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

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:05 pm. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____