



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

# Prudential Committee Minutes

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

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

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

Not present at this evening's meeting was District Treasurer; Lorinda Baker.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 13, 2019 Open Meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To approve the February 13, 2019 minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0**

## **Public Comment:**

None

## **Committee Reports:**

A discussion took place on forming a committee to prepare new By-laws. Chairman Pobieglo would like to create bylaws that would not enable what happened in the past with the former Committee Chairman to happen again. Vice Chairman Chiacchia states 2 years ago a committee was already formed to prepare new bylaws. The new bylaws were approved by the voters at a District Meeting held January 17, 2017 at 7:00pm. Prudential Committee meeting by the board, but approval with the Attorney General is still pending. Chairman says therefore we're still going by the old bylaws.

Various items that were added to the new bylaws consisted of a recall provision, added a number of days in compliance with the Secretary of the Commonwealth; 5 days prior to an election and separated the annual meeting from the date of the district election day; both events are on separate Tuesdays now. The Chairman asked if in the new bylaws if there was any language added that would impose a penalty for any board member committing wrongdoing, the Attorney General's office had concerns about this. Chairman feels our bylaws are not strong enough. Dave Basler pointed out that bylaws should be more general and that it may be advantageous for our district to have a set of Prudential Committee policies. A short discussion took place on the wrongdoings that did take place and how it was not able to be stopped because no one called the previous Chairman on his wrongdoings, the previous treasurer and accountant were the ones that could have called the Chairman on these wrongdoings, but they did not.

## **Report of the Treasurer**

None

## **Report of the Fire Chief**

### **Calls and Activity for the month of February 2019:**

Fire Chief; Scott Turner distributed the "Report of the Fire Chief" for the month of February 2019.

### **Operations Calls/Incidents:**

- **8 incidents:**
  - 1 Fire; 1 EMS; 2 Carbon Monoxide Incidents; 2 Cover Assignments (mutual aid); 1 Good Intent Call (food on the stove) and 1 Smoke Detector Activation.

### **Administration:**

- Chief attended CRB workshop, furnace pre-construction meeting, Western Mass. Fire Chiefs meeting.

### **Fire Prevention:**

- 3 Pre-sale Home Inspection.

### **Training:**

- **Department**
  - CPR Refresher
- **Duty Crew**
  - HIPAA , Firefighter I skills, ropes & knots, building construction, fire attack, vehicle extrication equipment, chief fire officer-self-study.

### **Events:**

- Station tour for a group from Holyoke.

### **Air Pack Grant:**

- Chief Turner received a 2<sup>nd</sup> bid. The air packs should be ordered by the end of the week. The procedure is to receive the 3 bids at the beginning of the grant. Chief plans to go with the lowest bidder. One company refused to bid so that can be considered 1 of 3 bids. The company that refused to bid only did so because of the quantity of 5 packs needed-that was not enough for them to bid.

### **New Command Vehicle:**

- The vehicle is being built beginning on March 18, 2019. Building should take 2 weeks. The company that is installing the lettering the light and the siren just opened in Holyoke. When the vehicle is completed it will be shipped directly to Holyoke. The installation should only take 1 week more. This makes a total of 3 weeks before completion.

### **Heating System Update:**

- The bid was awarded for the removal of asbestos from the elbows of the piping in the back room. This will start in approximately 10 days. Everything in the room is being removed in preparation for this removal.

### **Inventory List for Prudential Committee:**

- Chief confirmed with the committee that they did in fact receive his inventory list.

### **Station Spring Clean-up:**

- This is an ongoing work in progress. The day crew and weekend crew are helping with spring cleanup.

### **MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Fire Chief. 3-0-0**

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

Water Superintendent Chris Connolly was present at this evenings meeting to give the Report of the Water Superintendent.

### **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 and have been submitted.

### **District Records Overflow:**

- Chris asked the committee to specify what district record overflow they are referring to on this agenda. There are 15 or more boxes at the fire station that need to be scanned into the computer. Chief Turner has said there are no water district records in these boxes, but they are district records. The statute of limitation should be looked into on the requirement on keeping records. Chiacchia will look into this.

### **Rate Increase:**

Chris Connolly and Steve Chiacchia have begun working on the water rate increase so they can soon provide the Prudential Committee with some information. There will be a little more time needed in tying the rate increase into a number before presenting. Steve is extremely busy at this time with tax season but will get on this as soon as he possibly can.

A short discussion was held discussing how the water rate is calculated at this current time. The rates will increase and when they do, they will not until after July 1, 2019. W.S. Connolly mentioned seeing another town offering a senior citizen discount for all 55+ year old receiving 10% off their water bill.

**Inventory List for Prudential Committee:**

- Chris Connolly handed the Board his inventory in last months meeting. It is available if anyone needs to see it.

**Water Agreement with Bondsville & Thorndike:**

- Chairman Pobieglo spoke with Dave Lavalley of Bondsville and with Phil Hebert of Thorndike about getting together for a meeting but a date has not been agreed upon yet. Three Rivers currently already has an agreement with Thorndike to sell water.

**Mass Department of Environmental Protection:**

- A request was sent to the Mass DEP to reduce the frequency of Lead and Copper sampling. We went from semi-annually to twice per year, to 20 samples to annually only 10 locations per year. Chairman Pobieglo commended Water Superintendent for his hard work in getting things cleared up with the D.E.P. The water district has come a long way in a short period of time and it is thanks to Chris Connolly.

**Outstanding bills:**

- Shut off notices have been sent out to all the delinquent water bills that are currently \$300 or more. This makes up approximately \$60,000 of the total \$75,000 that is due.

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

**New / Old:**

The pending lawsuit was discussed. The District is being sued for a collection of a legal bill. The Districts current attorney is not experienced in municipal law. A settlement will most likely have to be paid. We have offered half of what the bill was, and they came back around taking only \$5,000 off the total. Chiacchia feels we should settle but should try to get the bill down to \$10,000. The total bill right now is at \$17,500. Pobieglo is not understanding why the current committee needs to settle a lawsuit created by another individual. This was a personal individual lawsuit. The District is now paying for this. Czech feels if the town would have just gone after the previous Chairman, but instead it was the Three Rivers Fire District and Ray Domey, that gets the town involved which now makes the town responsible to pay. The District was also billed for other work, not just the lawsuit.

**Public Comment:**

None

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:28 p.m. Approved 3-0-0**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Pobieglo, Chairman

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

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