



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
Guy Bellefleur; District Clerk

Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 22, 2024, meeting.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To approve the February 22, 2024, minutes to the meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports

None

New Business:

Met with Wendy Torrel the insurance representative from MIIA. She presented to the Board the options for dental and vision. The Board will review all the materials she covered and come back together to discuss and make a decision.

Report of the Treasurer

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

Water Department:

- Income for February 2024 was \$24,209.21 (an increase of \$56.73 from February 2023).
- Expenses for February 2024 were \$33,066.41 (a decrease of \$7,983.45 from February 2023).
- February 2024 Net Income is -\$8857.20 (a decrease of \$8,040.18 over February 2023).
Utilities – Electricity for the Water Dept for February was \$10,538.65.
- Fiscal YTD Income is \$381,744.79 (an increase of \$63,882.05 higher than July 2022 – February 2023)

Fire Department:

- No Issues

District:

- No Issues

Currently CD rates are as follows,
Country Bank for Savings has a CD at 4.99% for 6 months.
North Brookfield Savings has a CD at 4.65% for 6 months.

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

Report of the Fire Chief

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

Administration:

- Budget finalized for FY' 24
- Presented the Capital Growth Plan
- ESO upgrade work
- EMS upgrade project
- Ongoing Grant writing Fire Prevention & Safety
- HCMAA Meeting
- SCBA annual testing
- Meeting with Representative Todd Smola

Fire Prevention/Education:

- Code Enforcement: 2
- Occupancy Inspections with the Building Commissioner and Board of Health
- Follow-up with Sherman Oil on work to be completed.
- 26F Pre-sale Inspections: 4
- Oil Burner Inspection: 1
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors Installations: 2
- Smoke Detectors installed: 3

Operations:

- Emergency Incidents: 13
- Non-Emergency Incidents: 7

Training:

- EFR Training for Members Needing Certification
- Patient Assessment Skills
- Firefighter 1 Qualifications
- Ropes and Knots

Events:

- Hampden County School of Science Lecture
- Invitation to Return and Conduct Training with Chicopee Fire Department

Current notes: Obtained the AED Grant.

The Department now has the new ladder but there are some technical issues with it that will be taken care of in the next day or so.

Engine 2 came back from R.I. under budget even with fixing everything on the list.

Outreach Program is expanding out into the community.

Chief Nodurf is looking to acquire a pickup truck. A utility-type vehicle would be extremely beneficial to this department. A new pickup would be great but used is realistic. It only needs to be able to pull the SAFE trailer. Pat O'Connor suggested that the Chief check into the State Forestry Unit in Amherst. They usually have vehicles that we may be able to buy.

Working on improving communications. This includes dispatch of all entities involved, fire, EMS and police. A sit down with Police Chief Burns took place. Chief will organize a meeting with all fire chiefs at the same time so all are on the same page.

Mr. Chiacchia says he's aware of two or three incidents on Springfield Street and that both families have praised the fire department on their response time to the calls. Congratulations to the Chief from Mr. Chiacchia.

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

Report of the Water Superintendent

Nicole Dewberry read her Report of the Water Superintendent for February 2024.

A current subject that is not in the report below is, across from the Water Department office a building has been knocked down with plans of the space being a laundromat. Ms. Dewberry is asking about the fee for a 2" pipe. The new owners would pay to lay the pipe but the question is about the fee for that size pipe. John Sasur recalls a similar situation in the past and that was the entry fee was waived because it was an upgrade and not new.

Status of Water Systems:

- All samples required by DEP were submitted to the lab during this quarter, and the results are fine.
- Rich and Mac have been doing a lot of work on the service line survey inventory, and they changed a lot of meters too.
- Following the repair on the hill on Springfield Street, Jay from Mass Rural Water confirmed that he can no longer detect a leak. Therefore, if a leak still exists in the area, it is too small at this point for our modern technology to detect it.
- Ms. Dewberry has been receiving calls lately about water in basements. One of the calls was from 18 Sasur St. and, while we did happen to find a leak in the area, it remains to be seen whether or not this is contributing significantly to the water in the basement or whether the source is mostly groundwater. We rebuilt the wearable parts on the hydrant to rule that out as a possibility. Jon from Mass Rural Water came and helped us to pinpoint the location of the leak. We will repair the leak either late this week or early next week, depending on the excavator's availability.
- The new VADAR billing software is now fully installed, and Sam has been busy both with training and with working out some of the questions that are coming up.
- Sam is also busy with helping to prepare information for the DEP's Annual Statistics Report. Mac and I have also been working on this report. We'll submit it soon.
- We purchased signs for low road salt, and the DPW will install them for us.
- Jon from Mass Rural Water encouraged me to broach the topic again of keeping tools in the truck. While we were working together, Mac or I had to return to the office or to the garage to retrieve different tools that, at first, we thought we wouldn't need. However, as issues arise while we're working, we need additional tools to work through the job. I'm not sure if I emphasized this in the past or not but I'll mention now that although brass parts were stolen from the truck, none of the tools that we keep in the beds of the trucks are made of brass. As an additional suggestion, Jon mentioned the idea of hiring a welder to create a custom wrack that locks, to store the tools on the inner sides of the beds of the trucks. The items that were stolen from the truck were brass. The tools are not brass. Chairman Czech does not see why Ms. Dewberry cannot leave tools in the truck.

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

Board Members Comments:

Vice Chairman Steve Chiacchia has regretfully announced his retirement from the Prudential Committee effective June 30, 2024. This would be a term of 2 years.

New Business:

Dave Mottor, a retired Fire Chief from Easthampton and Blandford was present. Mr. Mottor has offered to mentor Steve Nodurf for the position of Fire Chief at basically no cost to the district.

Dave Mottor went on to say that he was born and raised in Bondsville, graduated from Pathfinder. A family history with Three Rivers, Chief Scott Turner is a cousin and George Turner was an uncle. About 6 months ago he found out that one of his great uncles was one of the founding members of the department, Albert Senecal, who passed away at nearly 100 years old. Mr. Mottor states in good conscious he cannot charge the district to mentor Steve. For the last 6- or 7-years Dave has worked for a company that does promotional assessments from the rank of lieutenant up to chief. When Dave first became a Chief in Easthampton in 2009 the job of fire chief changed. It is no longer the person that knows the most about putting the wet stuff on the red stuff. Fire Chiefs today are more managers. New changes to the OSHA regulations to come in 2025, he does not know how specific departments are going to survive. The liability of fire chiefs today is astronomical. A lot of rank and file do not want to be fire chiefs anymore.

Many departments in Central and Western Mass have vacancies right now. Mr. Mottor spoke at length about his experiences. Dave would be able to meet with Steve every other week and after that once per month. Mr. Mottor will report to the Board.

Mr. Chiacchia feels with Chief Nodurf’s experience it would be an asset to our community to have him.

The Board spoke some of this plan and wanting to move forward. Steve Nodurf feels he would very much so look forward to this opportunity.

Ms. Sullivan asked about the rescue truck and clarified that it is a non-transport ambulance. It has been confirmed that it is a non-transport vehicle by Chief Nodurf. The primary goal is to be the initial backup to Palmer Ambulance in the Three Rivers District.

The Board will call a meeting in the week to follow to discuss this opportunity offered by Dave Mottor.

Old Business:

None

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

District Clerk Guy Bellefleur is present and was told that the Warrant is currently being worked on. Nomination papers will be available as early as the following day. The nominations papers must be in by April 15th. Mr. Czech will post in the Journal next week. The District Meeting is set for the 3rd Tuesday of May, this would be May 21st.

Sam Hoy asked about the Meter Rental account and how far back they want her to go to calculate the amount that should go into the meter rental account. Going back to January 1st is agreed upon, then doing it each quarter. The new system should calculate this going forward.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; SULLIVAN): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:48 pm. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____