



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  
Richard Pobieglo; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman  
Andrea Sullivan; Prudential Committee Clerk  
Scott Turner; Three Rivers Fire Chief

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

## **Roll Call**

## **The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the March 1, 2023, meeting.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To approve the March 1, 2023, minutes to the Meeting. 3-0-0**

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Committee Reports**

None

## **Report of the Treasurer**

Report of the Treasurer was read by Lorinda Baker, District Treasurer. She read the March 2023 report but there is no warrant.

### **Water Department**

Revenue was \$14,549 over the prior year. YTD is \$1,900 higher than last year. YTD profit is \$4,603.00 being almost equal to last year except for 2022 expenses include \$11,000 for the engineer and \$3,662.00 for legal pertaining to the tank project.

### **Fire Department**

No issues currently.

### **District**

Expenses are well under budget.

Water checking account balance has grown and District needs to be repaid for amounts paid on the Waters behalf.

On the cash balances, now that the interest rates have been increasing amounts need to be moved to interest bearing accounts.

That process would need the approval of the Board.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Treasurer for March 2023. Approved 3-0-0**

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

Louie Capone was at this evening's meeting to voice some concerns about other pool water companies trying to fill their trucks here in Three Rivers. He began his discussion first asking if anyone on the board had any concerns or complaints to voice. Another company that is filling their trucks in Monson has pulled out of that town and has shown interest in filling here in Three Rivers. Water Superintendent Nicole Dewberry has said she's not been approached by any other company yet. This other company that Capone is referring to has in the past taken water and not noted starting and ending meter readings which led Capone having to pay the bill. Capone has been assured by Ms. Dewberry they are not going to be responsible for water other than what they use. As the discussion closed Mr. Capone said that he also would offer his assistance to our town with his tanker of water if ever needed.

## **Report of the Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Scott Turner read his March 2023 Report of the Fire Chief.

### **Administration**

#### **Meetings:**

- TRFD Officers Meeting
- Hampden County Mutual Aid – Hosted
- Town of Palmer Neighborhood Improvement through Code Enforcement (N.I.C.E.)
- Conservation Commission – Tour of Madura Conservation Land
- Town of Palmer Active Shooter/Hostile Event (ASHER) Planning with Palmer Police, Ambulance and Palmer & Bondsville Fire.
- Met with Assistant Superintendent from Palmer Water Treatment Plant for confined space planning. Notifications and what we would do if we were operating in those areas.

### **Fire Prevention/Education:**

- 3 – Oil furnace/tank installation inspection.
- 3 – Pre-sale home inspections
- 1 – Food Truck inspection
- 14 – Permits issued for open burning

### **Operations:**

#### **Emergency Incident response:**

- 16 Emergency Incidents.

#### **Service Calls:**

- 18 Non-Emergency Service Calls.

### **Training:**

- One member enrolled in Monson Recruit Firefighter Training Academy.
- New Fire Code Orientation – 3 members
- EMS
- Ropes & Knots
- Driver/Operator
- Rural Water Supply, Bondsville Fire came for the day with their tanker.
- Ventilation
- Air Management
- Live Fire – North Brookfield FD Training Facility
- Ladders
- Primary Search of burning buildings
- Building Construction
- Fire Behavior
- Tactical Ventilation
- Hoisting Tools & Equipment

### **Events:**

- No events for March

Andrea Sullivan asked Chief Turner about Jaws of Life and he had told her it had not arrived yet.

Chief Turner asked if he could be allowed to take EMS training with Roberge that will begin in May. The training can be invoiced to the department. The cost for the class is assumed to be between \$1,200 - \$1,600 but the exact amount will be found out. Treasurer Lorinda Baker will inquire with our Accountant if money can be used from the Wellness and Fitness account for this.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To allow EMS training for Fire Chief Scott Turner if funds can be found to do so. Approved 3-0-0**

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Fire Chief Scott Turner for March 2023. Approved 3-0-0**

## **Report of the Water Superintendent**

Nicole Newberry presented the Report of the Water Superintendent for March 2023.

A discussion took place on the fire service charge. To explain is if someone has a water sprinkler system and is hooked into our water distribution system. If there is a fire, the system will go off and the water from our pipes will go and help suppress the fire. It will not put the fire out, but it will slow it down. Ones that have this system get a discount on their insurance. Usually there is some sort of charge to provide this. If this is of interest to the Board to possibly start charging for this system, we can discuss this further at future meetings. Ms. Dewberry talked about this briefly to get a feeling of interest. Currently the only place that pays for their system is Kmart. Chairman Czech feels it is worth looking into for businesses and multi family units.

### **Status of water systems:**

- Menard Garage Doors of Palmer installed the new garage door.
- Lab samples collected from Q1 in compliance.
- DEP's Annual Statistics Report is complete and has been submitted. The unaccounted-for water is high again.
- DEP's required service line inventory project continues with Mac and Rich collecting information. This project will continue for the next year, plus.
- Chemical injection pumps at the pump station have had their spring maintenance completed by Mac and Ms. Dewberry.
- Hydrant flushing will take place with an all call going out to all residents. The health department has also been notified.

### **Dirty Water Filter:**

- A Three Rivers resident from Cheney Street is requesting that water samples be collected in his neighborhood. He would like the Water Department to cover any expenses for this testing. Samples are already taken nearby and will continue to be done nearby.

### **PFOS:**

- The EPA released proposed regulations for PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid. This group of chemicals is commonly used in a wide range of industrial processes and is found in many consumer products) and these surpass regulations already set by DEP during last year. Looking back, it is noticed that we do meet the DEP's current requirements, we often but do not always meet EPA's proposed requirements. These limits are being applied to drinking water. PFOS are currently used in fast food wrappers, waterproof clothing, nonstick cookware, carpets, furniture, on solar panels and so on and so on. These chemicals are referred to as "forever chemicals". If we were required to install treatment, the currently approved methods would cost millions of dollars to install and be very costly to maintain.

### **Computer search:**

- EPA will require MassDEP to assess cybersecurity of water departments during sanitary surveys. Just keep this in mind as we make improvements. DEP will perform the sanitary survey in a couple of years from now.

### **Bill Customers for Overage during Mid-Summer & During December:**

- Discussed last month but coming up again with another thought. Instead of charging the overage once per year how about we do it twice per year being one half mid-summer and the other half mid-winter? Chairman Czech suggested that Ms. Dewberry enclose a survey with the next round of billing to see how the residents feel. The request is in hopes to become more efficient. Meter readings are done in January for the DEP but must be handwritten as to not interfere with the readings that are done for the overage billing. It would be much more efficient to not have to handwrite the meter readings.

**Late Fee for Unpaid Bills:**

- Although this was not discussed at the meeting it was in the W.S. report. Ms. Dewberry is requesting the late fee be at a flat rate as opposed to the % that it is now.

**High/Low Chemical Alarms:**

- The high pH and low chlorine alarms have been going off frequently all year. Ms. Dewberry has said an engineer would be able to assess this but if the continuous read analyzer needs to be changed the quote received is \$5,000 not including labor. It was suggested to contact one of the previous Water Superintendents from Palmer to see if they could offer some input before an engineer gets involved.

**Legal Action Regarding Drought Restrictions:**

- It was asked if the Prudential Committee could consider contributing more legal fees regarding drought restrictions. It was voted last month to make the minimum contribution of \$275. A motion was made to contribute \$725 more (totaling \$1,000).

**MOTION (POBIEGLO; SULLIVAN): To contribute \$725.00 toward the legal fees regarding drought restrictions. This added to the \$275 already voted upon will be a total contribution of \$1,000. Approved. 3-0-0**

**Community Development Block Grant:**

- Ms. Dewberry is asking for the Palmer Town Hall to contribute match funding for the Maple Street project. Because there is no dollar amount given to match, the Prudential Committee has asked to first find out what the dollar amount will be before we can commit to any match funding.

Chairman Czech asked about Hryniewicz Park and the plans for the upgrade, is there going to be a water park there? Chief Turner has said there will not be a water park there.

**Update on Tank Project:**

- The design is still incomplete. McClure Engineering provided an update in an email. The official deadline is June 30, 2023, but it has been recommended to be complete by May 30, 2023. Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Pobiegló both will be in touch to push things along more quickly. Once the design is complete the Board can call a special meeting. A Lawyer will be needed also to look at the contract after the Board reviews it.

**Cell Tower Project:**

- No updates. An email was sent out but there has been no response so far.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for March 2023. Approved. 3-0-0**

**Board Members Comments:**

None

**New Business:**

Chairman Czech has scheduled a meeting on April 19, 2023, at the Town Hall for 6:00 pm with the Master Plan Sub Committee.

**Old Business:**

None

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 8:02 pm. Approved 3-0-0**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman Czech, Chairman

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

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