



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

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

Roll Call

Not in attendance this evening was District Treasurer, Lorinda Baker

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the April 5, 2023, meeting.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To approve the April 5, 2023, minutes to the Meeting. 3-0-0

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the April 14, 2023, special meeting.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To approve the April 14, 2023, minutes to the Special Meeting. 3-0-0

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Treasurer

Report of the Treasurer was not ready for this evening's meeting but District Treasurer; Lorinda Baker sent along a message that she has been contacting various banks including North Brookfield Savings to inquire on CD's.

Report of the Fire Chief

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

Administration

- Local Mutual Aid meeting with Palmer and Bondsville Fire Chiefs.
- Efforts continue to work on required documentation for upgrade to Basic Life Support (BLS) Licensure.

Fire Prevention/Education:

- 3 – Oil furnace/tank installation inspection.
- 3 – Pre-sale home inspections
- 2 – Commercial kitchen inspections
- 8 – Permits issued for open burning

Operations:

- 24 Emergency Incidents.
- 43 Non-Emergency Service Calls.

Training:

- Members logged a total of 120 hours of training in April. These trainings include Driver/Operator, Mass. Call/Volunteer Recruit Academy, and Monson Recruit Academy as well as basic firefighting skills training with the Explorers.

Events:

- Ladies Auxiliary Easter Pancake Breakfast.

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 April 2023.

Tank Project:

An email was presented to the Board showing the correspondence in reference to retaining legal counsel to review the Contractors Contract in reference to the Tank Project. This email from Mirick O'Connell is noting that Three Rivers was already a firm client from about 7 or 8 years ago. This complicated the engagement process somewhat. This resulted in a lawsuit that had to be filed to collect monies owed. Unless we pay the \$10K they say we owe they are not able to move forward with Three Rivers as their client. Vice Chairman Richard Pobiegly also mentioned someone that does work for Bondsville who is an attorney is out of Worcester that he could get some references from her for our future reference. Nicole has done some research on other law firms and has found one that seems eager to work with us. They are Greg McGregor of McGregor Law. This firm would give a 20% discount to municipalities being at \$300/hour. Chairman Czech feels if the remaining Board agrees, and if Ms. Dewberry is comfortable with McGregor, then we should go with them.

Committee Clerk Andrea Sullivan inquired about McClure and if there has been any progress with them finishing the design. This has not shown any signs of moving forward and the recommendation by the lawyer was that maybe we need to go with another engineering firm. There are deadlines that are fast approaching. A short discussion took place at this time about the contract and where to go from here. Mr. Pobiegly recommends contacting McClure and having a discussion about our concerns first. Ms. Sullivan agrees to contact McClure the day following this meeting. Ms. Dewberry said for the record that McClure's group have been wonderful to work with.

Ms. Dewberry read that pertaining to the State Revolving Fund, all construction for this project must be completed this year. Also bearing in mind the end date of the project is weather dependent. If it is too cold, we cannot proceed but the weather we have now is perfect. We can also only do 1 tank at a time. The process is in steps that will take time.

Status of water systems:

- The fire station has had a new fire hydrant installed.
- The used chlorine chart recorder that was installed when the chlorine injection system was installed is no longer working. A controls tech is going to try to repair it with spare parts.
- The chlorine injection point began to corrode on Well #1 so that was replaced. Then the chlorine injection point for Well #3 began to corrode so that to will need to be replaced soon.
- The service line at 93 Bourne was leaking out of the foundation wall into the basement. Service was shut off at the curb stop and the homeowner dug down by hand to make the repair. The repair was inspected, and the line was put back in service.

PFOS:

- Christine Simard of the DEP has suggested we budget to increase the frequency of our testing to allow for the possibility of either quarterly or monthly testing. She also said that funding is available to systems such as ours that are classified as small, low income, and have PFOS detects. The funding could be for the purpose of either adding a treatment system, or combining water departments so that wells with a greater amount of detected PFOS may be shut down. Ms. Dewberry presented more information on the grant program with her report.

Survey for Annual or Twice Annual Overage Charge:

- An example of the bill insert was presented with Ms. Dewberry's report for the Board to review. This insert should be ready to go out with the next round of water bills.

Fire Protection Charge:

- Nicole presented the Board with comparison rates pertaining to the fees defined as the Fire Protection Charge.

At April's monthly meeting it was brought up that we may be able to start charging for this water sprinkler 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. Currently the only place that pays for their system is Kmart. Chairman Czech asked Ms. Dewberry to find out exactly how many businesses she would be able to charge before moving forward on this.

Drought :

- If the Drought regulations are implemented a list of things that we would need to do was included in Ms. Dewberry's report. It ranges from a mild drought; Level 1 to a Critical Drought; Level 3. Ms. Sullivan states that from the Attorney we are going to go through the OADR along with 21 other systems.

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

Board Members Comments:

Vice Chairman Pobieglo asked Chief Turner what his plans with the ambulance are. David Clark (Palmer Ambulance) has been in touch with Mr. Pobieglo about concerns about losing customers. Chief Turner replies this is a non-transport ELS level care vehicle. If Three Rivers ever went to a Transport Ambulance, they would be doing this strictly to back up Palmer Ambulance not to replace them.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

None

Public Comment

John Modak inquired about how the Water Department was going to address all the Past Due water bills. Water Superintendent Nicole Dewberry has said that in the warmer weather, when able to shut off the water that will continue if past due bills are not paid.

Mr. Modak being on the Finance Committee feels that during the yearly Finance Committee Meeting the amount that is past due in total should be disclosed at that time.

Another topic asked about was the cell phone tower. This cell phone tower project is not progressing at all.

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

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:33 pm. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____