



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

Prudential Committee Minutes

Chairman Stephen Chiacchia 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
Sherrie Bellefleur; District Recording Secretary

Absent from tonight's meeting is Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer and David Basler; District Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Reorganization of the Board

Due to the election one month ago, there is now a new member; Norman Czech. Chairman Stephen Chiacchia nominated Richard Pobieglo to the position Prudential Committee Chairman. Chiacchia also nominated Norman Czech to the position of Prudential Committee Clerk and Richard Pobieglo nominated Stephen Chiacchia to the position of Prudential Committee Vice Chairman.

MOTION (CHACCHIA, CZECH) To nominate Richard Pobieglo to the position of Prudential Committee Chairman. 3-0-0

MOTION (CHACCHIA, POBIEGLO) To nominate Norman Czech to the position of Prudential Committee Clerk. 3-0-0

MOTION (POBIEGLO, CZECH) To nominate Stephen Chiacchia to the position of Prudential Committee Vice Chairman. 3-0-0

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the May 9, 2018 Open Meeting.

MOTION (CHACCHIA, POBIEGLO): To approve the May 9, 2018 minutes to the Open Meeting. 2-0-1

Committee Reports

Furnace Committee Report: Chief Scott Turner met with Bob Haveles and Bill Towsley. They walked through the station and Mr. Towsley plans to send Bob Haveles information on pricing. It may possibly go over the \$10,000 which would then require 3 bids.

Public Comment

Mark Graveline was present to discuss an umbrella policy. The general liability insurance for the district, in case of property damage or bodily injury and on the auto insurance for the district in case of bodily injury or property damage involving district vehicles there is currently \$1,000,000 worth of protection. There is also unlimited defense for an attorney should there be a lawsuit. \$1,000,000 is not what it used to be so Mark is recommending an umbrella; an extra layer of liability insurance that goes above the auto liability and general liability insurance. Mark is proposing an additional \$1,000,000 which would bring the total liability up to \$2,000,000. The additional cost for this would be \$1,089/year.

MOTION (CHACCHIA, CZECH): To move forward with the purchase of an umbrella policy in the amount of \$1,000,000 to bring the total liability up to \$2,000,000. 3-0-0

Report of the Treasurer

Review of May 2018 Financial Statements:

Treasurer Lorinda Baker left her May 2018 Financial Statements and Stephen Chiacchia agreed to read in her absence.

Water Department:

- Water revenue was \$10,764 which is \$31,203 less than last May (2017). (\$21,000 of this drop is because the hydrant charge to the District was billed in April of this year)
- Year-to-date revenue is up \$88,985 over last year.
- Pump station maintenance (\$45,929), equipment (\$24,614) and the water treatment issue (\$78,282) are the largest line items and are significantly over budget.
- Year to date expenses exceed revenue by \$23,500.

Fire Department

- Expense categories are well under budget - no change from last month.

District

- Expense categories are well under budget – no change from last month.

MOTION (CHACCHIA, POBIEGLO): To approve the Treasurers Warrant. 3-0-0

MOTION (CHACCHIA, POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Treasurer. 3-0-0

Report of the Fire Chief

Calls and Activity for the month of May 2018:

Fire Chief; Scott Turner distributed the “**Report of the Fire Chief**” for the month of May 2018.

Calls: 15 incidents

Inspections: 8 Fire Safety Inspections.

Training Hours: Pump Operations and Drafting.

Chiefs Meetings & Seminars: Monthly Officer and Department Meeting; Hampden County Mutual Aid; Western Massachusetts Chiefs Meeting; Meetings with area Chiefs regarding mutual aid and automatic aid; met with Assistant Chief of Bondsville Fire Department in regard to automatic aid and training; met with Bob Haveles and attended the meeting for *Revive Three Rivers*.

Events: Celebration Parade for the athletes for the Special Olympics held at the Palmer High School; attended the mock drill at Palmer High School with Palmer and Bondsville Fire Departments, Palmer Police and Palmer Ambulance and attended the Memorial Day Parade.

Chief's Vehicle: Chief Turner did receive a quote from Bertera Chevrolet, but they are not in the municipal business so to purchase the vehicle from them would entail adding lights and sirens after the purchase. Chief Colon does municipal leasing for their purchases for his vehicle and the command vehicle, they also go through these leasing companies for their ambulances. Chief Turner has information of who to contact and plans to send his information to those municipal lease companies. The Board or Finance Committee could decide which one to go with. The current Chief's vehicle has been quoted \$8,000 or more to repair. The 2005 model is 13 years old. Chief notes how when the key is in the off position all the power stays on and fans continue to run. Currently, it is a safety issue. There was money appropriated for a new vehicle some years back, but it seems to have vanished according to Chairman Pobiegló. There are 2 suppliers that are pre-approved, Patriot and MHQ and Chief already has bids from them. An estimated complete cost would be \$50,000. This cost would warrant a special District meeting to appropriate the funds.

MOTION (CHACCHIA, CZECH): 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.

Prospective Employee Discussion: Nicole Dewberry was present to submit her resume to the Committee in hopes for employment as an Operator with the Water Department. Chris Connolly is making a recommendation to the Board to consider hiring Nicole. She has

shown great initiative and is preparing to take the T1 and D1 Operator Exam. Nicole does currently have a D2 Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant license. The Committee would like to take this application under advisement and call a special meeting to further discuss this possible employment.

Status of chemical addition report: Everything is going well and kept within acceptable levels by DEP standards.

Status of Capital Expenditure/Budget Plan: Water Superintendent Chris Connolly sat with the engineer Chris McClure on this. An extension has been filed with the DEP so now this is now due February 2019. The plan currently being worked on is a brand new one and not the same one that the Committee has already reviewed.

Electric Service Provider update: Talks with the DEP have taken place on allowing solar panels to be placed inside of our well zones. They are taking a stance against putting them inside what they call zone 1 which is the 400-ft. radius around Well 1. As far as Zone 2 goes, anything outside that they would allow but Chris feels there may still be a lot of risks even putting them there. The solar panels do have batteries and if those batteries were to let loose they could potentially contaminate the wells. The electric bill currently is \$40,000 to \$50,000/year. We are trying to knock that bill down some. Solar has been looked into primarily to save money. Clerk Norman Czech is also on the Planning Board for the Town of Palmer and knows the rules and regulations pertaining to solar panels. He has stated there are panels that could be purchased that do not have the battery attached to the panel.

Water Meter Replacement: There are not any changes in this project.

Flushing Schedule: The flushing of hydrants has been completed on May 11, 2018.

July Water Meter Readings: Moving forward with this on July 1st. Rich is still on board to assist with the meter readings, but Alan is not, he's moved on to other work.

New Business: May 18th the first round of backflow testing was completed and went well. There were a couple fails so repairs and retests will be done. The tests will be done twice per year.

On May 17, 2018 the fire hydrant was replaced on the corner of Chudy's. This hydrant has been leaking for the past couple of months.

The 2017 Consumer Confidence Report has been completed and is posted online and cards will be mailed out giving all residents a link to view this report online.

The Water Quality report needed a couple changes with language and is now completed and updated and a link to view this report will be distributed.

Lead and Copper testing has been completed for the first half of the year. None of the results were above the action level.

In May termination notices started to be mailed out to the top 20 consumers that are overdue on their bills. The amount that was owed was \$ 21,224. As of the end of May a collection of \$6,000 was brought in because of sending out notices.

Bourne Street has a leaky gate valve. A tech came in to exercise gate valves and hit all the big intersections around town. If a break were to happen we now know we have a handful of valves that we will be able to shut off. Bourne street was not able to be shut down when that leak occurred. The problem has been isolated now the repair can take place. Chris would like to have this done by the end of June 2018.

Capone Pool Water buys water from Three Rivers. A discussion took place on their payment schedule. It is felt Capone takes too long to pay their balance after purchasing the water. The District has a payment schedule and would like to share this with Capone. The District feels if they are asked to pay their balance sooner they would do so. Capone is a good customer, we would like to work together on this with them.

Chris suggested wanting to speak to the District Accountant about the money that the water department owes to the fire department. Chris would like to start making payments on this total. The Committee has assured Chris that payments have already been applied and the balance due has been reduced dramatically. One year ago, what was owed was \$56,000, to date the balance is now \$21,000.

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

Public Comment

None

MOTION (CHACCHIA, CZECH): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:39 p.m. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Richard Pobiegló, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____