



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
Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer
Sherrie Bellefleur; Recording Secretary

Roll Call

Not in attendance this evening was District Clerk, Guy Bellefleur

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the May 3, 2023, meeting.

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

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Fire Chief

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

Administration

- Operations meeting with Chief Daniels, Bondsville Fire Department.
- Western Mass. Fire Chiefs meeting.

Fire Prevention/Education:

- 1 oil furnace/tank installation inspection
- 2 propane tank installation inspections
- 5 presale home inspections

Operations:

- 21 Emergency Incidents.
- 20 Non-Emergency Service Calls.

Training:

- Monson Regional training

Events:

- Annual District Meeting

- Hampden County Mutual Aid Dinner
- Mock MVA Palmer High School
- Palmer/Monson Family Network Fire Safety & Fire Truck wash

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

Report of the Water Superintendent

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

Status of water systems:

- DEP's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is complete, and postcards will be sent to consumers soon.
- Sam has notified customers of the bill assistance programs in which the water department is participating. Updated bills with handwritten notices went out to customers who have large balances on their accounts along with another notification to remind them of these assistance programs.
- We are paying for a safety deposit box at the bank. Only those named have access to it. It is likely that the access list needs to be updated but only current access is allowed to change the list. Access currently is Richard Pobieglo and Steve Chiacchia. This will be looked into because if there is nothing in the box there is no need to keep it for cost reasons.
- Pathfinder football is only using the field on the right side of the dirt road. Ms. Dewberry asked the farmers if they would like to take back the left side. They said that it would take them multiple seasons to cultivate the grass back to what it was before it was kept short, and so they do not want it back since by the time that it's ready to use, they may be retired. Therefore, Pathfinder will continue to mow the left side of the road but will only mow it once or twice per year.

Former Unicore Building:

- The son of the current owner said that they had an arrangement with Unicore, the tenant to pay the water bill. The tenant did not pay during the years toward the end of their stay, and they are no longer there. The owner of the building is now refusing to pay that bill. Chairman Norman Czech suggests sending them a shut off notice to see if that gets anything going.

Tank Project:

- Vote and sign to authorize Ms. Dewberry to act on behalf of the district to work with McGregor Legere & Stevens PC regarding documents needed for the tank project.
- Discuss the timeline for the project. Currently what McClure has provided us with is the Plan Design and the write up of the design. The application for the grant has not been submitted yet and that was due in October 2022. The deadline is June 30th for the whole project to be under contract and we are not close to that yet. We could get an extension on this but even a 90-day extension will not work. Tonight, we will decide if we will just postpone this until next spring. There is a meeting with the DEP at 4:00 pm 6/8/2023.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To postpone the tank restoration project until 2024. approved. 3-0-0

Rate study and Capital Efficiency Plan:

- DEP visits once every three years to perform a Sanitary Survey. During the next visit, two years from now, they would like to see that we have a Rate Study and A Capital Improvement Plan in place. Ms. Dewberry says Three Rivers can do this on our own or we can get with the other Districts. The Board thinks that talks should happen with Bob Flagg of Thorndike Bondsville and Chris Connolly of Palmer just to see.

Fire Protection Charge:

Nicole has a list of businesses and residential buildings that have fire protection. Kmart is the only one that is paying something. They are paying \$250.00 per year. After some discussions it was decided to charge businesses \$250.00 per year, \$125.00 semiannually. Residential would be charged \$100 per year, \$50.00 semiannually. A notice will go out with the next billing to let all that are involved of the new charges.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To charge a Fire Protection Charge for Businesses \$250/year, \$125/semiannually and for residential \$100/year, \$50/semiannually. Approved. 3-0-0

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

Report of the Treasurer

Report of the Treasurer was read by Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer for the months of April & May 2023.

A request was made not to have the meetings the first Wednesday of the month due to the time allowed to prepare the Treasurers Report. There is not enough time.

April

Water Department:

- Revenue for April was \$22,216 higher than the prior year. Revenue is down \$18,599 from last year mostly due to timing.
- YTD Revenue is up \$24,109.
- YTD profit of \$54,049 is \$13,522 higher than last year. Repairs were down \$24,253 and meter replacement was down (\$16,927) while salaries are up \$19,722 and utilities are up \$7,090.

Chairman N. Czech attributes salaries to the employment transfers of Water Superintendent and Water Department Secretary. Both positions were filled but previous employees still helped resulting in salaries still being paid out.

Fire Department:

- No significant issues

District:

- All areas well under budget.

May

Water Department:

- Revenue for April was \$16,082 lower than the prior year. Change from April is timing as YTD Revenue is up \$8,026 over prior year.
- YTD Profit is down \$9,525 as Salaries (+\$22,567) and Utilities (+\$8,290) offset lower costs for Repairs (\$24,411) and Meter Replacements were down (\$16,927). Also, \$11,153 of Emergency Costs for the Tank Project are included in the current year.

Fire Department:

- Expenses appear to be coming under budget.

District:

- The Fire Department purchased Jaws of Life equipment for \$27,233 during May. Previously unused Fire Department equipment funds were used to cover the cost of the equipment.

Certificate of Deposit Rates:

- North Brookfield Savings Bank
 - 5-month CD rate is 4.91% with a \$2,500 minimum deposit.
 - If we don't notify the bank with instructions prior to the maturity date the CD will be converted to the 12-mo. CD rate of 0.25%.

Country Bank for Savings:

- 6-month CD rate is 0.10%

UniBank

- 6-month CD rate is 4.75% with a \$1,000 minimum deposit.

District surplus currently is \$578,953.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To agree to go with North Brookfield Savings Bank for a CD with a cap of \$200,000. 3-0-0

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the Treasurers Report for April & May 2023. Approved. 3-0-0

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the Treasurers Warrant for April & May 2023. Approved. 3-0-0

Board Members Comments:

Board member Andrea Sullivan asked about signing the form for retaining the new law firm. Ms. Dewberry says that this needs to be signed even if the Tank Restoration project is postponed.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

None

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

- Chief Scott Turner received an email from the Town Manager in reference to the food truck inspections. They have asked Chief Turner to be present at a meeting June 14, 2023, to discuss this subject. It appears that possibly what is being looked for is all towns to charge the same rate for food truck inspections. Chief Turner will attend the meeting and report back afterward.
- Chairman Norman Czech read a resignation letter addressed to him from Chief Scott Turner. The Chief is resigning effective August 31, 2023. At this point the Board will post the position as soon as they can.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CZECH): To accept the resignation letter from Three Rivers Fire Chief Scott Turner. Approved 2-0-1

Chairman Norman Czech also adds that tonight will be the last meeting with Richard Pobiegló and would like to thank him for his 9 years of service on the Board. This calls for a round of applause.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:39 pm. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____