



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:

Stephen Chiacchia; Prudential Committee Chairman
Norman Czech; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman
Richard Pobiegló; Prudential Committee Clerk
Sherrie Bellefleur; District Recording Secretary

Scott Turner; Three Rivers Fire Chief
Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer
David Basler; District Clerk

Roll call finds Water Superintendent; Nicole Dewberry not present at this evenings meeting due to having a class to attend.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the May 18, 2022, Meeting.

MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To approve the May 18, 2022, minutes to the Meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

At the start of this evenings meeting Prudential Committee Clerk Richard Pobiegló set up a video camera to record and make available for viewing, by all Palmer residents, this evening's meeting on M-PACT (Community channels).

District Clerk Dave Basler read an excerpt from the Open Meeting Law:

Any member of the public may make an audio or video recording of an open session of a public meeting. A member of the public who wishes to record a meeting must first notify the chair and must comply with reasonable requirements regarding audio or video equipment established by the chair so as not to interfere with the meeting. The chair is required to inform other attendees of any such recording at the beginning of the meeting. If someone arrives after the meeting has begun and wishes to record a meeting, that person should attempt to notify the chair prior to beginning recording, ideally in a manner that does not significantly disrupt the meeting in progress (such as passing a note for the chair to the board administrator or secretary). The chair should endeavor to acknowledge such attempts at notification and announce the fact of any recording to those in attendance.

Chairman Stephen Chiacchia has said "Let it be known that this meeting is being taped without the permission of the Chairman"

Michael Matthieu stood to speak. His first question to the Chairman was "is there any reason you do not want this meeting taped"? The Chairman replied "no".

Next matter Michael Matthieu had was for Chief Turner in reference to his electronics policy. Mr. Matthieu claims the TRFD Lieutenant went all over Facebook running his mouth accusing Mr. Matthieu of lying to get votes. Also noted was a comment stating the opponent had his (lieutenants) vote but that was a lie also because he cannot vote in this district. He told people of this District that she had his vote, so he also lied to the people of this district. Mr. Matthieu would like to know if this Lieutenant will be subject to disciplinary action for what he did according to this electronics policy. Chief Turner responds this policy Mr. Matthieu handed out is not the current policy

there are new Policy & Procedures that dates back about 4 years ago. Richard Pobiegló asked Chief Turner what the date is on the newer Policy & Procedures was. Chief agreed to check for what the exact date is for Mr. Pobiegló.

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Fire Chief

Fire Chief Scott Turner read the report of the Fire Chief for May 2022.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF:

In May, three members of the department attended a Company Officer seminar hosted by Battalion Chief Nick Martin from the City of Salisbury Fire Department, in North Carolina. The lessons learned, as well as advanced Company Officer strategy and tactics for fireground operations have been invaluable to this department. It is because of members willing to attend these types of trainings that our department continues to improve the emergency services we provide to our community.

OPERATIONS:

- 23-Emergency Incident response: 1 fire call, 15 EMS incidents, 1 service call, 2 good intent calls and 4 false alarms.
- 109-Public Service Calls: Non-Emergency assistance. These activities vary from providing Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement information to assisting residents with lockouts and washing down the dance floor and eating are at Pulaski Park.

TRAINING:

Department: Emergency First Responder and Engine Company Operations.

Duty Crew: Continue to train during their shifts, to ensure members of the community and department are safe during emergency incidents. These trainings include:

- Ground ladders
- EMS training
- Hydrant drills
- Engine Operator drills
- Company Officer development
- Water Supply
- Hose deployment
- Training on new roof prop

EVENTS:

- Palmer Memorial Day Parade
- Palmer/Monson Family Network end of the year event
- Palmer High School Pre-Prom Mock Accident

INSPECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Members conducted 1 propane tank installation inspection and 2 pre-sale home inspections.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS:

- No news to report.

STATUS OF ENGINE 2:

- Both engines 1 & 2 have been tested with a pump test. Engine 1 passed but just barely and Engine 2 failed, it could not get a prime. The cost to repair Engine 2 will be approximately \$2,000. For this cost it would be worth a repair to defer the cost of having to purchase a new pumper for a little bit longer.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

- Chairman Steve Chiacchia thanked Chief Turner for including with is report each month the Roster.
- Prudential Committee member Richard Pobiegló began with saying if Chief Turner did not want to answer he did not have to at this time but could meet at a different time, saying that would be okay. Mr. Pobiegló asked why Mr. Brooks was terminated. Chief and the Board agreed that this matter would require going into Executive Session to discuss further. This request will go on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Mr. Pobiegló also states that he was contacted by a gentleman about a call that came in as a house fire saying it took the fire engine 20 minutes to arrive. The location was Sykes Street. Chief Turner assures Mr. Pobiegló it was not 20 minutes and that a reminder from previous discussions resulted in the dispatchers not writing down the time the call is received, but a later time

when the entry is recorded. Some detail of what was seen by Mr. Pobieglow were explained with Chief Turner suggesting that the gentleman expressing his concern should attend the meetings to discuss it in person. Also, Chief states this call did not come in as a structure fire it came in as an alarm activation. Chairman Steve Chiacchia reminds Mr. Pobieglow he can meet anytime with the Fire Chief to discuss these things. Mr. Pobieglow just stresses his concern that someone is going to get killed sooner or later.

MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Fire Chief Scott Turner for May 2022. Approved 2-0-0

Report of the Treasurer

District Treasurer: Lorinda Baker read the Report of the Treasurer for the Month of May 2022.

WATER DEPARTMENT:

- Revenue for May was \$3,785 below prior year, however it is \$33,987 over prior YTD revenue
- YTD profit is \$57,294 which is \$6,260 down from 2021. Repair costs (+12,225), Meter Replacement (+8,634), Pump Station Maintenance (+10,225), account for most of the cost increases.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- Operating expenses will be close to budget for the year.
- We moved approximately \$3,672 from operating expenses to SAFE Grant and equipment in May. (SAFE Grant comes from the State. If the funds are not used in the current year, they roll to and are available in future years.)
- May need a revenue fund transfer for June expenses.

DISTRICT:

- Expenses are well under budget at this point.

MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To accept the Report of the Treasurer for May 2022. 3-0-0

MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To approve the Treasurers Warrant for May 2022. 3-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Nicole Newberry was not present, but the Report of the Water Superintendent for May 2022 was handed in to Prudential Committee Vice Chairman, Norman Czech.

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS:

- Mackenzie Griffin began his first day of work on June 4th. Nicole Dewberry informed DEP that we have a secondary operator on staff and so we are now in compliance.
- A service line repair on the corner of Oak and Pleasant Street
- Due to the rising temperatures Nicole has started adding more chlorine to the drinking water to ensure the minimum required residual remains within the water storage tanks.
- All the required lab tests for the second quarter of this year are now complete.
- Hydrant flushing for the Spring is complete. Rich completed nearly all this work
- Mary Ann updated the address list that we will use to mail post cards directly to consumers so that they may view the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on our website. This report will be complete soon as it is due to consumers, the DEP, and the Health Department by July 1st.
- Following inspection by DEP of the newly installed chlorine injection system, DEP granted an extension on their deadline for updating the related reports. Chris update the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and Nicole is currently updating the Operations Manual. Nicole will submit both updated reports to DEP within the week.
- Except for the required MEPA forms (which Nicole will learn more about during a conference call next week). She prepared as much of the information and required forms as she is capable of for the preliminary design of the tank restoration project. She handed all that information over to McClure Engineering, and they had a conference call on June 3rd. They may now begin their work on the design of the project.
- Proof of the vote must be submitted that took place during the District's Annual Meeting to approve the drinking water storage tank mitigation and restoration project by the end of this month. This is one of the "big deadlines" and, if we miss it, we will forfeit the \$1.6 million dollar State Revolving Fund (SRF) grant. Nicole will submit this as soon as it is ready to go.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Richard Pobiegló wanted to make it know that Stephen Chiacchia and John Sasur have offered to volunteer their time and are willing to help with the Grant that the Water Department is trying to apply for. Mr. Pobiegló also went on to Thank Stephen Chiacchia for his years of service and all he's done for the town.

MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for May 2022. Approved. 3-0-0

New Business:

- Cell tower project: There is a company interested in putting in a cell tower where the tanks are off Baptist Hill Road. The individual that contacted the district is Brad Gorman and he would like to meet with the Prudential Committee and talk about his proposal.
- Meeting Date Change: This subject will be tabled at this time. The change poses some conflicts with others so this can be revisited later.
- Health Insurance change to allow employee and spouse: Currently the district health insurance did not allow for two-person coverage. Chairman Steve Chiacchia says this will be changed. The new water department employee has a spouse and would want to cover his spouse on his medical plan. The premium for a two-person plan is less than what a family plan would cost.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; CZECH): To allow and add two-person coverage with the health insurance plans. 3-0-0

- Vice Chairman Norman Czech asked if the district is obligated to sell bulk water to anybody. It is done as a profit but there are no obligations to do this. It seems there has been another company besides Capone that is taking water but not signing for it. When a company fills up, they record the starting meter then the ending meter. Capone feels there is another company taking water without recording the meter readings. This is going to be investigated immediately.
- Mr. Czech would also like to touch on Mr. Pobiegló comment thanking Steve Chiacchia for staying on with the Water Department project and sharing his financial knowledge and personally thanking Mr. Chiacchia for serving on the Board.
- Mr. Chiacchia responds he's enjoyed serving on the Board and continues with his own comments. Those comments are as follows.
 - First off Chairman Steve Chiacchia would like to thank Dave Basler and all the fine work he has done composing the Code of Conduct for the Prudential Committee and other significant work that has been done for the district "Thank you Very Much Dave"
 - "Recording Secretary Sherrie let the record show that for Mr. Pobiegló despicable actions over the past year including putting a derogatory sign on the boardroom table during a Prudential Committee meeting directed at the Chair. Referring to the Fire Chief as a Hitler. Badgering the Fire Chief almost every meeting. Constantly asking the Fire Chief for information that the Chief has already provided him with. Falsely claiming without corroborating evidence that a member of the fire department, was in uniform, drinking at a local establishment, Amvets. Constantly insulting department members who live in bordering communities. Video recording meetings without the Chairmans permission in advance. Falsely claiming a prominent member of the Finance Committee was drinking before and during a meeting. Interrupting the Chair constantly. In general Mr. Pobiegló has acted in total disregard to the Prudential Committee's Code of Conduct and despite warnings he has acted in a manner that is unbecoming of an elected official and a member of this committee therefore this Reprimand is in Order. Please let the record show, Sherrie this day, Wednesday June 8, 2022"
 - "Again, I want to thank Mr. Basler and thank Sherrie. I wanted to thank the Treasurer Lorinda, the Fire Chief and the Water Superintendent, the Water Superintendent is not here today but I want to thank all the district employees including the Firefighters Association and the Ladies Auxiliary and all the subcontractors. We work together as a team, and we do our best. I think we have made Three Rivers a better place to live and a safer place to live and I am proud to be part of that team and unfortunately my term ends June 30, but it has been enjoyable, and I am proud of the work the team has done. Thank you very much and I wish you all the very best of luck".

Board Members Comments:

- Richard Pobieglo adds that first the lady did show up in uniform, it is in the Code of Conduct book. If you are not at work, you must take your uniform off if entering an establishment. Mr. Chiacchia stresses he does not want to hear about this again a motion to adjourn from this open meeting was made.

Old Business:

- None

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

- None

MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:11 pm. Approved 2-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Stephen Chiacchia, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____