



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

Prudential Committee Minutes

July 13, 2022

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
Sherrie Bellefleur; District Recording Secretary

Scott Turner; Three Rivers Fire Chief
Lorinda Baker; Three Rivers District Treasurer
Nicole Dewberry; Three Rivers Water Superintendent
Guy Bellefleur; Three Rivers District Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the June 8, 2022, Meeting.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; SULLIVAN): To approve the June 8, 2022, minutes to the Meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Treasurer

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

WATER DEPARTMENT:

- Revenue for June was \$37,865 higher than the prior year.
- Profit was \$40,640 compared to \$35,162 for FY' 21.
- Revenue was \$7,344 higher than budget and Profit was \$33,240 better than budget.
- Operating expenses (+2,236) and utilities (+4,200) were offset by savings in insurance-medical (17,638), legal (7,500) and outside hire (10,000).

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- Operating expenses were \$2,245 over budget. Fuel (+2,138) and apparatus maintenance (+4,572) being the primary issues.
- A revenue fund transfer if \$ 2,300 should be made to cover the overage (requires motion, second, and a recorded vote).

DISTRICT:

- No issues on District accounts. Spending overall was well under budget.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; SULLIVAN): To make a Revenue Fund Transfer in the amount of \$2,300 to cover the overage in the Fire Department. 3-0-0

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

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

Report of the Fire Chief

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF:

During the June 2022 meeting Mr. Pobiegló alleged that the department response time to a structure fire was 20 minutes. Chief would like to reiterate that this was not a structure fire, it was a cooking incident, with no fire. After confirming incident times with Palmer Police Dispatchers, the actual times for incident #22-097 on May 24, 2022 are as follows.

Time of the call: 11:29, Dispatch: 11:30, Responding: 11:32 and On Scene: 11:34.

Engine 2 failed the annual pump test due to an inoperable priming valve: and the hydraulic pump for vehicle extrication equipment had a substantial leak. The leak has since been repaired. However, the equipment which was manufactured in the late 70's early 80's has been in service long past its effective lifespan. It is my recommendation that both the engine, and our extrication equipment should be priority #1 for replacement. Chairman Norman Czech instructs Chief Turner to get some prices to replace.

OPERATIONS:

- 19-Emergency Incident response: 1 fire call, 11 EMS incidents, 2 service call, 4 good intent calls and 1 false alarm.
- 10-Public Service Calls: Including Wash down car port for PPD. Directions. Provide smoke and CO alarms for Senior SAFE program.

TRAINING:

Department: Drills consisted of Engine Company Operations.

Duty Crew: Members attended the Aerial Ladder Operator hosted by Mass Firefighting Academy. Shift training continues to focus on Engine and Rescue Company Operations.

EVENTS:

- Honorary Chief Colin Cavanaugh, and members of Sunshine Village continue to wash fire trucks and other work around the station on Tuesdays and Fridays.

INSPECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- 1 Commercial kitchen suppression system inspection.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS:

- Two members graduated from Mass. Call Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Academy and tow members graduated from Monson Fire Department Recruit Training Program.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; SULLIVAN): To accept the report of the Fire Chief Scott Turner for June 2022. Approved 3-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Nicole Newberry presented the Report of the Water Superintendent for June 2022.

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS:

- All lab samples have been taken and submitted. All results meet DEP's requirements.
- Toomey Water Services completed backflow testing.
- Meter readings are just about complete, and the bills will be mailed out soon.
- Installation of meters has resumed after taking a short break to save on staff time.
- The school behind Crossway Christian Church is going to be used again so a new large meter has been installed and water service is now turned on to the building.
- A service line on Ruggles Court was worked on with Tom Gregoire Excavations to repair service.
- Main Street will be repaved within the next couple of weeks. A recommendation from Dennis Moynahan of the Wastewater Treatment Plant to check for possible leaks, so Jay from Mass Rural Water came and performed leak detection. They do not charge for this service it is offered as part of our membership. Jay did not hear any leaks. Also, a riser on Main Street is in the plan for repair.
- Standing water was found, which is possible groundwater, within on of the pits at the tanks. We pumped the water out a few weeks ago, and since then it has only increased slightly.
- The manifold on the old truck has been repaired.

DISCUSSION OF WATER RATES:

- An email from DEP about the next state revolving fund deadline was discussed. Still needed is a loan appropriation letter with the loan application by October 14th. Items/requirements needed in the letter are noted in the attachment provided by the Water Superintendent. One of the big things is the district has to prove we can pay back the million and a half dollars. The loan can be taken out for 10, 20 or 30 years (30 years being a little higher of a rate than 20). Highly likely there will some amount of loan forgiveness, but we must prove we can pay back the full amount.
- On a separate attachment are ideas on water rates from previous studies/reading.
- Finally, a 3rd attachment are some water schedule of rates, fees and charges. As an example, instead of the annual charge maybe we make that a quarterly charge. Currently at this time the only fire protection charge is to K-mart, and this is annually not quarterly.

It is known that we are going to have to go up on the water rates. Some numbers were run and we are possibly looking at a 20% increase. It does not have to be all at once it could be 5% here or 10% there. Mr. Pobieglo mentions it would be nice if some of the businesses could kick in. But, like Ms. Dewberry says there is only 1 business in town that were charging the fire protection to. Steve Chiacchia agreed to attend next months meeting to give some ideas on what kind of increases and if the board is good with him doing that he will. All members of the board agree to having Mr. Chiacchia attend the next meeting.

UPDATE ON TANK PROJECT:

- Agreement from McClure Engineering is attached and in need of signing. Mr. Pobieglo suggested finding out if we could set up a payment plan with McClure Engineering. Ms. Dewberry says she would have to ask. The USDA funding award is still hopeful to obtain at this point.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; SULLIVAN): To give Nicole Dewberry permission to sign the agreement from McClure Engineering. Approved. 3-0-0

QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD:

Richard Pobieglo asked Nicole if we can move forward with ordering Mary Ann a folding machine. Nicole will look into this and talk with Mary Ann more on it also.

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

Board Members Comments:

- None

New Business:

- To Treasurer Lorinda Baker was the question about an elderly exemption from the assessor's office. They would like the Board to vote to accept this. Lorinda has never seen anything about this. DLS Real Estate Exemptions for senior and surviving spouse. Lorinda will take it and inquire with the assessor's office about it.
- Cell Tower Project has the guy chewing at the bit to get started. Chairman Czech is hoping Richard Pobieglo will take the lead on this project. Reason is if they are going to lease it will need to go through the planning board and that will then be a conflict of interest for Mr. Czech being he is on the planning board. Some time back the town had a survey done by a company that went around looking for all of the dead spots between Bondsville, Three Rivers, Springfield Street etc. Their recommendations were up by the water tanks the high school, police department and somewhere in Bondsville. The water tanks were the highest point and figured that is where it would do the best. Mr. Pobieglo asks the Board how they feel about going ahead with the project and the Board thinks we should go ahead with this project. This project could potentially help the Fire Department also. Water Superintendent did inquire about how close a tower can go to the water tank and is still waiting for that response. She will pass that information along to the Board once she has it.
- David Basler asked about what happened in Chester Mass and shows concern for our water if we had a break like that town did. Ms. Dewberry says first this would be her biggest nightmare but what would happen here is she would get a call from the pump station if the water level dropped below a specific point very quickly. Also noted is at the railroad tracks on the bridge there is a pipe that sticks up that goes under then pops back up on the other side that helps, and we also now have interconnects and those can be opened if needed.

Old Business:

- None

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

- Chairman Czech says the subject was brought up about a Federal & State holiday, Juneteenth. Lorinda Bakers suggests if the holiday is added to the employee handbook, we may want to add it as a blanket language saying to add a holiday being a federal and or state holiday. Nicole Dewberry will be sure to use blanket language when updating the handbook.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; SULLIVAN): To add the Juneteenth holiday to the handbook. Approved 3-0-0

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:23 pm. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____