



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

Chris Connolly; Three Rivers Water Superintendent  
Scott Turner; Three Rivers Fire Chief  
Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer  
David Basler; District Clerk

Roll call finds all present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the June 16, 2021, Open Meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To approve the June 16, 2021, minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0**

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Committee Reports**

None

## **Report of the Treasurer**

Lorinda Baker read her Report of the Treasurer for May & June 2021.

### **May 2021:**

#### **Water Department:**

- May receipts were \$29,783 higher than prior year (\$21,000 hydrant charge from the district was paid in May vs. April of last year).
- Revenue through May is up \$9,323. Profit is up \$23, 879 as maintenance and repairs are running well below last year.
- Results vs. Budget are \$51,871 better than expected. Revenue is below expectation, but operating expenses are \$46,731 below budget.

#### **Fire Department:**

- Operating expenses are \$15,596 below budget.
- Salaries look to be running right on budget for the year.

#### **District:**

- Expenses are well under budget.

### **June 2021:**

#### **Water Department:**

- Revenue for June 2021 was \$407,327 for the fiscal year - \$2,958 higher than 2020.
- Bottom line was a profit of \$35,163 or \$14,824 more than the prior year.
- Expenses for repairs, pump station, maintenance and tank cleaning were well below 2020.

- Additionally, savings vs. budget is several accounts allowed the department to purchase more replacement meters than was anticipated.

**Fire Department:**

- Fire Department was under budget for the year by \$ 4,336.
- Article 9 spending was under budget by \$2,040. This amount will carry over to 2021.

**District:**

- District expenses finished well under budget. Legal (\$15,000), District Expenses (\$11,467) and Benefits (\$16,522) were the larger amounts under budget.

Lorinda was able to certify free cash. She did not have the exact number with her, but it has gone up.

**MOTION (POBIELGO; CZECH): To accept the Report of the Treasurer for May & June 2021. 3-0-0**

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIELGO): To approve the Treasurers Warrant for May & June 2021. 3-0-0**

**Report of the Fire Chief**

Three Rivers Fire Chief Scott Turner presented the Chief's report of June 2021.

**Calls and Activity for the month of June 2021:**

**Operations Calls/Incidents:**

- **emergency/non-emergency incidents:** 30 emergency incidents (3 incidents awaiting completing from officer in charge).

**Training:**

- **Department:** TRFD Procedures.  
**#401-**Establishing Fire Department Operations  
**#404-**Smoke or Fire of Unknown Origin  
**#407-**Traffic Accidents and Vehicle Fire Response  
**#405-**Structural Fire Response.
- **Duty Crew:**  
 Search and Rescue, ventilation, driver/operator, portable radio use, small company tactics, hydrants, forcible entry, overhaul and scene preservation, portable fire extinguishers, hauling systems, hose deployment, patient care reports and emergency first responder.

**Events:**

- No events for June 2021.

**Fire Prevention:**

- No inspections for the month of June 2021.

**Administration:**

- Members attended the retirement ceremony for Palmer Fire Chief Alan Roy.

Pobieglo expressed to Chief Turner his concern with manpower within the department decreasing. Currently the department has 22 members with 7 being from out of town. Out of the 22 there are a few members that are not allowed on the trucks. Pobieglo does not feel that the volunteer firefighters should have to pass an "army fitness exam". Chief Turner passed out information on the wellness exam he is using from the National Volunteer Fire Council's website, asking the Board to please take time to review the material. An email was sent to all committee members on June 1, 2020, from Chief Turner regarding a member that went into the hospital. The email also discussed the physical fitness program that is available. Each member of the department was notified by the individual that was hired, that this program is a minimum of a year long process. No one is going to be in shape overnight. Everyone was clear on this and that there was no rushing. After the 1-year mark some members were doing absolutely nothing to meet those requirements. They were told they could not ride on the trucks to attend any fires until they started doing something with the fitness program. As of this evening 4 members took the test and 4 have passed it. Pobieglo is concerned that without the manpower allowed to attend a fire, someone may die in a fire, he also stated, on record that he feels Chief should put the fitness exam away for 6 months. A lengthy discussion took place between the Board and Chief Turner about the manpower, the wellness stipulations and the members that are not allowed on trucks because of their inability to pass the wellness test. The discussion ended at this time with the plan to take time to have Pobieglo and Czech meet with the Chief to discuss this further outside of tonight's meeting.

Vice Chairman Czech brought up a question to the Fire Chief about coincidence or not coincidence that immediately following the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, having brought up the concern of the wellness program at the meeting, why suddenly the whole fitness program showed up on social media the next day. After a short discussion it resulted in coincidence because the posting of the program had been in the works for some time prior to posting. There was no longer any fire department personnel present at the meeting in June when wellness was brought up, as Mr. Gagnon was dismissed from the meeting after the Fire Chief's report, the wellness discussion took place at the end of the meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Fire Chief for June 2021 as read by the Fire Chief Scott Turner.**  
**3-0-0**

### **Report of the Water Superintendent**

Water Superintendent Chris Connolly read his report of June 2021.

#### **Status of water systems:**

- Up to date with all monthly and quarterly samples.

#### **New Water Department Business:**

- During the month of June, due to the increase in water temperatures and stagnant water around the storage tanks, coliform bacteria were detected in the western storage tank. This is a common problem for unchlorinated systems in the summer months. To remedy this problem the western storage tank was isolated, drained and refilled with fresh water. The repeat samples came back negative and drinking water quality was never compromised for our customers.
- Currently TRWD has had approximately 275 radio transmission meters installed throughout the town. If 200 installations per year can take place, we should be able to catch up to capacity.
- Water shut-offs letters have been mailed to customers with outstanding balances exceeding \$300.00. Shut offs will be conducted on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Connolly spoke about significant past dues and how a payment plan takes place but after the first payment no other payments ever get made. Most of the past due subjects are single family dwellings. A discussion took place on how to go about working out a payment plan before a shut off must take place. There are two (2) properties that are not metered in town, and it is part of our bylaw is that you must be metered to be on the system. One being the cemetery and the other John Morrison's building. The cemetery agrees to have one installed soon. Connolly will work on the Morrison building.
- Stephen Chiacchia states that the USDA has a program that they will fund at least 50% of the cost to hire an engineer that will look at a particular job that needs to be done. He asks if we should hire an engineer to look at the tanks to see what needs to be done. Chris has already had a company come out and look at the tanks and they gave recommendations on what needs to be done with the tanks. An independent engineer might be helpful to look at the tanks Chiacchia states. If Chris wants to do this, the USDA will pay fund half to have this done.
- Vice Chairman Czech asked if Chris has heard anything from Todd Smola on the State Revolving Funds – Funding Projects. There is an application process through their website. Chris is troubleshooting why our application submission keeps showing error. He is working on this. It is open until the middle of August, so we still have time.

**MOTION (POBIEGLO; CZECH): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for June 2021 as read by Chris Connolly. Approved.**  
**3-0-0**

#### **New Business:**

- None

#### **Old Business:**

- None

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

- None

**Board Members Comments:**

- None

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIELGO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:21 p.m. Approved 3-0-0**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Chiacchia, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_