



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
Stephen Chiacchia; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman
Scott Turner; Fire Chief

Chris Connolly; Water Superintendent
Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer
Sherrie Bellefleur; District Recording Secretary

Absent from this evenings meeting was Richard Pobieglo; Prudential Committee Clerk and David Basler; District Clerk. Both members contacted the committee to inform them of their absence.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the June 12, 2019 Open Meeting.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; CZECH): To approve the June 12, 2019 minutes to the Open Meeting. 2-0-0

Public Comment:

None

Committee Reports:

None

Report of the Treasurer

Review of June 2019 Financial Reports:

Treasurer Lorinda Baker presented the June 2019 Financial Statements.

June 2019:

Water Department:

- Expenses exceeded revenues by \$867 for the year. This is a \$13,755 improvement over last year.
- FY19 repairs increased by \$19,522 to a total of \$33,000. Additionally, the department was charged a \$4,950 for unemployment benefits for a former employee.

Fire Department:

- Salaries were \$38,339 under budget while extra duty exceeded budget by \$9,565 for a net under budget amount of \$28,774.
- Operating & Maintenance expenses (Article 5) were under budget by \$2,727. Fire Apparatus Maintenance was over budget by \$4,324 but that amount was made up by underspending in several accounts.
- Article 9 (equipment) has a balance of \$7,139 remaining. This amount will be moved to the Balance Sheet and is still available to spend on the other equipment requests.

District:

- District expenses were under budget by \$46,000. The district expense line item was under by \$35,401. Full time benefits were under by \$10,039. No legal bills were incurred, that line item was under budget by \$10,000.

Stephen Chiacchia did point out that even though the water department still had a small loss the increase in rates was necessary for Capital Expenditures.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; CZECH): To accept the Report of the Treasurer for June 2019. 2-0-0

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; CZECH): To accept the Treasurers Warrant for June 2019. 2-0-0

Report of the Fire Chief

Calls and Activity for the month of June 2019:

Fire Chief; Scott Turner presented his Report of the Fire Chief.

Operations Calls/Incidents:

- **17 incidents:**
 - 2 Fires; 5 Rescue & EMS; 4 Hazardous Condition (no fire); 1 Service Call; 1 Good Intent Call; 4 False Alarm & False Call.

Training:

- **Department:** Private Matthew Lemieux attended Rural Water Supply Training with Monson Fire; Three Rivers Fire hosted a swift water rescue drill with Bondsville Fire, and Three Rivers members conducted a vehicle extrication drill with the blue pickup truck.
- **Duty Crew:** Policies & Procedures review, water supply with hydrants, accountability, street and hydrant locations, power saws (K-12).

Vice Chairman Chiacchia questioned Chief as to whether the department has a rescue boat. There is currently an inflatable Zodiac that works very well except for not having a motor. If the department needed to get a distance away quickly, they would not be able to do without a motor.

Events:

- No Events for the Month of June.

Administration:

- **Meetings:**
 - Western Mass Chiefs meeting in Dalton.

Fire Prevention:

- 3 Pre-Sale Home Inspections; 1 Oil Furnace Inspection

New Command Vehicle:

- The new command vehicle is in and in service. The radios were programmed the day before this day of the 17th. A final figure will be presented after the installation costs for the lights, sirens and the lettering are finalized.

Heating System Transfer:

A transfer of \$2,500 from the reserve account took place last month. Chiacchia had conversations with the District Accountant Stephen Marhelewicz about taking the balance out of District Expense instead of doing another transfer in this new fiscal year. We can pay for the balance in the June 30, 2019 fiscal year end instead of going into the new fiscal year. The District Expenses are under budget. The total cost of the heating system was \$67,000. Budgeted was \$55,000 (\$45,000 through June 30th and \$10,000 in the new year), plus \$2,500.

MOTION (CHACCHIA; CZECH): To have Stephen Marhelewicz take the shortfall to cover the Capital Expense of installing the boiler which is \$10,040 out of District Expenses for the YE June 30, 2019. 2-0-0

District Records:

- Chairman Czech questioned Chief on the purchase of a scanner. Chief assumed as of the last meeting the water department was getting a scanner not the fire department. The board did say it may be wise to have each department have their own scanner to scan in their own paperwork.

MOTION (CHACCHIA; CZECH): To accept the report of the Fire Chief. 2-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Water Superintendent Chris Connolly presented his report.

Status of water systems:

- There are no distribution or treatment problems to report.
- Monthly and Quarterly water samples and chemical addition forms required by Mass DEP are all up to date.

Discuss Water Agreement with Bondsville & Three Rivers Water Department:

- Chris McClure; Engineer spoke of his review of the contract between Bondsville and Three Rivers Water Department. McClure showed a plan to the committee in reference to the connection. It was understood that the agreement was to provide water to Bondsville but in fact reads that Bondsville plans to sell water to us. McClure does not see this as being the overall game plan. It appears that the USDA is requiring an intermunicipal agreement in order to provide the funding needed for the Bondsville improvements. Three Rivers view is we may want the option to purchase water in an emergency but overall our water system is in good health and we have enough of a supply. The key right now is what purpose is this agreement going to serve. The agreement that McClure reviewed is backwards in his opinion. Details of the contract/agreement were discussed in some more detail. Stephen Chiacchia thinks it makes sense, but we want the agreement to be fair and not one sided. He also questioned the cost of this project. McClure feels it could be as much as \$1,500,000 for the infrastructure improvements. McClure says if the USDA is coming in saying they were going to fund this project for us then yes, we would like to be involved in this but only to the point where we would be bringing the water to the meter pit. We would own up to that meter pit and they would own everything beyond. A call has been put into the USDA by McClure to obtain more information. A summary is Three Rivers will incur significant costs but will not get any immediate benefit from this interconnection.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; CZECH): To table any further action on this interconnection until more information is obtained. 2-0-0

Rate Change for Hydrant Use:

- Water Superintendent Connolly made a recommendation to the committee for a possible rate increase to the hydrant usage at Chudy's which is selling water to primarily, Capone for swimming pool fills. Currently the rate being charged is \$4.00/1,000. After going to \$5.00/1,000 for residential he recommends we at least match the residential rate for this hydrant. Chiacchia states that as a rule when you sell in bulk the rate is less. Usually classified as a *quantity discount*. WS Connolly feels that just maintaining this hydrant and the property should justify an increase. Chris does not feel we would lose their business if we raise the rates. Chairman Czech recommends going up to \$4.50/1,000 first before straight to \$5.00.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; CZECH): To propose a water rate increase to Capone for \$4.50/1,000 gallons. 2-0-0

District Records Overflow:

A scanner was purchased for the district records.

Leaking service at 2098 Main Street was terminated.

A hydrant was replaced in front of Pulaski Park that has been offline for the winter due to a break.

Univar has given Three Rivers Water a price to buy the bulk storage tank in the Sykes Street pump station. Currently we can only buy caustic soda from Univar until we no longer own the tank. It has been assumed the purchase of this might be less money from other suppliers.

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; CZECH): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent as read by Chris Connolly. Approved 2-0-0

New / Old:

Chairman Czech received from Mary Ann an agreement that needed to be accepted and signed by one of the committee members. This took place.

Table the Code of Conduct until the next meeting when Richard Pobiegló is present.

Public Comment:

None

MOTION (CHIACCHIA; CZECH): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:27 p.m. Approved 2-0-0

Submitted by:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved as to Form and Content:

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____