



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  
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 Richard Pobiegló absent from this evening's meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the July 14, 2021, Open Meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To approve the July 14, 2021, minutes to the Open Meeting. 2-0-0**

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the July 26, 2021, Open Meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To approve the July 26, 2021, minutes to the Open Meeting. 2-0-0**

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Committee Reports**

Finance Committee: None

Fitness Review Committee: None

## **Report of the Treasurer**

Lorinda Baker read her Report of the Treasurer for July 2021.

### **July 2021:**

#### **Water Department:**

- Water revenue was down \$60,395 only because of the timing of the July 1<sup>st</sup> billing (went out a little later).
- Hampden County Retirement was paid in July this fiscal year as opposed to January in previous years, as the County offered a discount if the entire bill was paid in July. Savings are \$293.50 each for the Water Department and the District.
- Expenses for repairs, pump station, maintenance and tank cleaning were well below 2020.
- Additionally, savings vs budget in several accounts allowed the department to purchase more replacement meters than was anticipated.

#### **Fire Department:**

- Nothing unusual to report for July.

#### **District:**

- Annual insurance renewal paid in July. A portion will be allocated to the Water Department.

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To accept the Report of the Treasurer for July 2021. 2-0-0**

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To approve the Treasurers Warrant for July 2021. 2-0-0**

## **Report of the Fire Chief**

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

Chief Turner submitted invoices for the college courses he has completed and passed. The invoice will be sent to the District Accountant for payment to be made.

Chief Turner formally requested from the board, permission to obtain the signed copies of the minutes from June & July's open meetings. He also is requesting copies of the recordings of those meetings, if certain allegations made by Clerk Richard Pobieglo are not in the minutes. Chairman Chiacchia agreed to give Chief copies of the minutes. Also brought up is the fact that the approved final minutes of the meetings are always able to be found on the Town of Palmer's website.

Chief Turner presented the Board with the document named *Member Requirements since 2013*. These requirements have been in place since Chief Turner took over as Three Rivers Fire Chief. There are 3 requirements, they are 1. All members must meet the minimum training requirements for their position (trained is acceptable, certified is highly encouraged). 2. All apparatus, tools and equipment must be "fire ready" at all times. 3. All members are responsible for keeping the station and grounds neat and clean at all times. Not all the members are meeting these standards. All members have all the necessary tools available to take these classes and keep up with these requirements. If a class that is needed is taken online, it can be taken any night of the week offering flexibility to fit everyone's schedules.

A timeline of the Health and Wellness program development that began in 2018. A representative from Ideal Health & Wellness Solutions who is partially contracted through the Mass Call Volunteer Firefighters Association offered a 3-hour program to the 13 members of the department. All members received a Road Map consisting of overall health & wellness with different options, nutritional aspects, and opening the door to members of the fire community to either follow a guided program or a program that suited them and that fit into their schedule.

There was 100% buy in for roughly only 3 months. The remainder of 2018 and 2019 the program went downhill. In 2020 there was a medical emergency that one member had prompting the initiation of the program again. As 2020 continued participation began to diminish again. At this point there were several options consisting of a Certified Health & Wellness Physical Fitness Trainer that came out and developed a program for the members. A NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) document was given out, read and a program was developed based on the NFPA. A physical fitness test was created with the understanding it would take a minimum of one year for members to get to the "Required Minimum Standards". All members on the department agreed and half took the test twice. Also, a martial arts trainer Coach Kevin Kearns developed a program consisting of a very low impact training program on Saturdays and Sundays. All are programs done by this trainer was done for us at no charge. The martial arts trainer still comes out once per month to train right at the station. All training is volunteered but it is highly encouraged. Another training called Steel Mace was provided again low impact. And finally, another trainer offered meditation and yoga and came right to the station. In 2021 there were 3 to 5 participants taking the physical fitness test (being done semi-annually) but then it was switched to quarterly and the standards were lowered three times to try and get more participation.

Talk of a physical by a medical doctor prior to being hired to the department was discussed. It has been many years since physical requirements took place. Chief would like to institute not only a physical at time of hire but then an annual physical going forward. The request is to have one Dr. that would perform the same physical on all members. Chairman Chiacchia and Vice Chairman Czech both think it is a great idea and will be taken into consideration. The Fitness Review Committee will discuss and take this into consideration. Chief Turner is requesting urgency on having the first meeting of the Fitness Review Committee as soon as possible.

### **Calls and Activity for the month of July 2021:**

#### **Operations Calls/Incidents:**

- **emergency/non-emergency incidents:**  
18 emergency incidents.

#### **Training:**

- **Department:**  
Off Month
  
- **Duty Crew:**

Hose deployment, water supply, officer development, ground ladders, swift water rescue, knots, and search and rescue. Three Duty Crew members attended the required Emergency First Responder Training.

**Events:**

- SAFE Program with Palmer Police Department at Pathfinder.

**Fire Prevention:**

- 4-Presale Home Inspections
- 1 Assembly

**Administration:**

- No meetings for July.

Dispatch is working out the same with very little change.

The Jaws of Life had an issue and a company in West Springfield can rebuild the hoses. It will take about a week and a half.

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Fire Chief for July 2021 as read by the Fire Chief Scott Turner. 2-0-0**

**Report of the Water Superintendent**

Water Superintendent Chris Connolly read his report of July 2021.

**Status of water systems:**

- Up to date with all monthly and quarterly samples.

**New Water Department Business:**

- Sykes Street pump station sustained a large lightning strike. Significant damage was done to well #1. A new drive was installed on July 24th. On 8/11 Connecticut Artesian Well pulled the pump and motor to replace them with the spare pump and motor on site. An insurance claim may be able to be made. Contact with Crimmins & Graveline will be made to inquire.
- On July 22<sup>nd</sup> it was discovered a large tree had fallen on the electrical line that supplies electricity to the Baptist Hill storage tanks. The electrical pole holding the line had significant rot just below grade causing the electrical pole to snap at the base. TRWD is looking into options of having a new service line installed along the access path. This may take a couple of months. Our box is on their pole, so it is our issue. This will also be discussed with Crimmins & Graveline.
- August 4<sup>th</sup> TRWD and Gregoire Excavations replaced a hydrant at the intersection of Cheney and Cedar Street. This hydrant was in very poor condition leaking and very difficult to operate.

**Water Shut offs:**

- TRWD conducted shut offs on 7/27, all accounts marked for shut off have either been paid in full, partial or on a payment plan moving forward. No accounts are currently off for nonpayment.

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for July 2021 as read by Chris Connolly. Approved. 2-0-0**

**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:**

- Chairman Chiacchia thinks getting an annual physical makes perfect sense and hopes we can move forward with this. This will also make the fitness program optional.

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:08 p.m. Approved 2-0-0**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

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

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

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

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