



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
Andrea Sullivan; Prudential Committee Clerk
Scott Turner; Three Rivers Fire Chief

Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer
Sherrie Bellefleur; Recording Secretary
Guy Bellefleur; District Clerk

Roll Call

Finds Nicole Dewberry not in attendance at this evening's meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the July 12, 2023, meeting.
The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the August 10, 2023, meeting.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To approve the July 12, 2023, minutes to the Meeting. 3-0-0

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To approve the August 10, 2023, minutes to the Meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

It was requested to move this section of the meeting to the end of the meeting.

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Treasurer

Lorinda Baker: District Treasurer handed out the budgets and balance sheets for the month of July 2023. There is not a warrant ready for this evening but if the Board would like to meet with the District Accountant to go over anything in the following week that is an option.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To accept the Treasurers Report for July 2023. Approved. 3-0-0

Report of the Fire Chief

Fire Chief Scott Turner read his July 2023 Report of the Fire Chief.

Administration

- EMS meeting with Dr. Knowles, the Regional Director.
- ESO meeting. (The company that bought out the emergency reporting/software used for emergency reporting).

Fire Prevention/Education:

- 1 Food Truck Inspection
- 2 Propane tank inspections
- 3 presale home inspections
- 3 Senior SAFE detector installations

Operations:

- 24 Emergency Incidents.
- 9 Non-Emergency Service Calls.

Training:

- Water rescue
- Firefighter skills evaluation

Events:

- Life Flight event at Pathfinder
- Pathfinder Summer Camp

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CHIACCHIA): To accept the report of the Fire Chief Scott Turner for July 2023. Approved 3-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Nicole Newberry was not present, but she left her Report of the Water Superintendent for July 2023. The Board reviewed this for a short time.

Chairman Norman Czech mentioned on the back pages of her report she had noted a timeline for the tank restoration project.

Status of water systems:

- Mass Rural Water and Mac performed a Leak Detection Survey and found 4 leaks. These locations will be found and repaired before the end of summer.
- Mac & Rich changed a couple dozen meters.
- EJP performed a complimentary repair of the hydrant at Chudy's.

Tank Project:

- McClure Engineering received a certified letter from the Prudential Committee notifying them that Three Rivers has withdrawn from the grant process. All electronic information on the project was requested to be sent to us along with the original copies of the paper drawings that were supposed to have been digitized for us. Ms. Dewberry has received no response on this as of yet. Ms. Sullivan has reached out to McClure by various methods with no response. It was asked now if Mr. Chiacchia could try and contact them.
- Ms. Dewberry completed and submitted the preliminary State Revolving Fund application prior to the deadline of August 11, 2023.
- Deadlines for the State Revolving Fund application are as follows. May 2024 DEP will determine if we do or do not need the grant. May 2024 during the Town Meeting in Three Rivers, we will need to have a town vote to approve the project and updated cost of the project. During October of 2024, the Application and Design are due to the DEP and Construction would begin during 2025. Ms. Sullivan strongly feels the October 2024 is a typo and should read October 2023. This will be looked into so everyone is on the same timeline/deadlines.

Rate Study and Capital Efficiency Plan:

- Palmer and Bondsville would like to work with us but Bondsville depends on how the cost will be divided between districts because they are smaller in size. Bob still needs to speak to Thorndike.

Billing Software:

- Same would prefer to go with VADAR for her billing software. Sam will also learn more about Palmer's software. Is it okay to move ahead with purchasing this software?

New Business:

Reorganization of the Board:

- Stephen Chiacchia nominated Norman Czech as Chairman.

MOTION (CHACCHIA; SULLIVAN) To nominate Norman Czech as Chairman. Approved. 3-0-0

- Stephen Chiacchia was nominated by Andrea Sullivan as Vice Chairman.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; CZECH) To nominate Stephen Chiacchia as Vice Chairman. Approved. 3-0-0

- Stephen Chiacchia nominated Andrea Sullivan as Clerk.

MOTION (CHACCHIA; CZECH) To nominate Andrea Sullivan as Clerk. Approved. 3-0-0

Discuss & Act on appointment of interim Fire Chief

- The Board has received one applicant with a letter of intent and information about his background. Mr. Chiacchia feels the Board should move forward with appointing this applicant following negotiations with him. Ms. Sullivan agrees.

MOTION (CHACCHIA; SULLIVAN) To appoint Steve Nodurf as interim fire chief subject to negotiations with him and coming to an agreement with the terms of his employment. Approved. 3-0-0

Discuss Advertising for a permanent Fire Chief:

- A job description is complete, agreed upon by the Board and ready to be posted online with Indeed and in the newspapers. Chief Turner suggests also posting on the Mass Fire Chief's Association also.

MOTION (CHACCHIA; SULLIVAN) To advertise for a permanent Fire Chief's position. Approved. 3-0-0

Old Business:

Andrea Sullivan asked to consider changing article 4 in our bylaws under the fire department section 3 that the chief resides in Three Rivers. It is recommended to be branched out by a certain number of miles into surrounding towns. Chairman Czech looked at other bylaws and noticed that very few require the chief to live in the same town. Suggestions of a 10-mile radius were made. This change would have to be done at a Special District Meeting. The Board agrees this should be done as soon as possible.

Public Comment:

Richard Pobieglo, a Three Rivers resident asked the Board if they have ever looked into Palmer covering our department. Ms. Sullivan states that according to the bylaws and the way they are written the answer to this question is no. Mr. Pobieglo states that the bylaws can be changed. He also states that he thought this move could save Three Rivers District some money and response time could possibly be better in his opinion. The Board has an applicant interested in filling in until we find someone so that is the direction the Board would like to go in. The paperwork Mr. Pobieglo is not concerned with but mostly his concern lies with the response time. Ms. Sullivan asked him to reiterate on that comment. He specifically says that the last accident that happened on Springfield Street where a young woman was killed. It was a single car motor vehicle accident. Mr. Pobieglo clearly states it took the fire department a while to get the jaws of life there. Chief Scott Turner offered to print out the report times on that call immediately. He left the meeting to go do this. While waiting Ms. Sullivan asked if this was the call that the police officer on scene overruled the Three Rivers Fire Chief. Chairman Czech states that there have been times Three Rivers has beat Palmer to calls.

Bonnie Turner added that accusations should not be allowed without evidence to back those accusations up.

Chief Turner returned with his report of this accident. Alarm came in at 11:32 pm, Dispatched at 11:36 pm, Chief was responding at 11:41 pm and on scene at 11:43 pm. Engine 1 dispatched at 11:43 pm and arrived on scene at 11:45 pm. Palmer was on scene after Three Rivers. Engine 2 came after that. Less than 10 minutes in all from the call coming in to being on scene, in the middle of the night at that. Chairman Czech states that is an average response time for anyone else. Mr. Pobieglo then added "especially if your dead in the car". Ms. Sullivan asked why he made such an insensitive comment. He states, "because it is true". Fire Chief Turner said that the occupant in that car was out of it in less than 4 minutes. This situation could not be changed even though most times to get one out of a car like this could take up to 30 minutes. Accusations continued and at this point it was asked of Mr. Pobieglo to retrieve the transcripts then this can be discussed but without proof these are all just accusations.

Michael Matthieu asked if the Board would consider reaching out to other towns past Fire Chiefs to assist with recommendations in reviewing the permanent Chief applications. Chairman Czech assured Mr. Matthieu that he already intended on doing this. He does intend to ask Chiefs for input from outside of our District and towns. Mr. Czech feels not one of the Board members are qualified to select the permanent fire chief.

Board Members Comments:

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

MOTION (CHACCHIA; SULLIVAN): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:00 pm. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____