



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  
David Basler; District Clerk

Roll call finds Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer absent from this evening's meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the August 11, 2021, Open Meeting.

**MOTION (CZECH; CHIACCHIA): To approve the August 11, 2021, minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0**

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Committee Reports**

Finance Committee: None  
Fitness Review Committee: None

## **Report of the Treasurer**

Lorinda Baker was not present this evening but says she will email her Report of the Treasurer once computers are connected at her new location. The August 2021 Trial Balance was reviewed by the Committee.

### **August 2021:**

#### **Water Department:**

- Water receipts were about even with the prior year, for two months they were down slightly but that was due to the billing going out later than it did last year.
- Expenses look right online. The retirement was paid early to save the district some money.

#### **Fire Department:**

- Nothing unusual to report for August.

#### **District:**

- Nothing unusual to report for August.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To accept the Report of the Treasurer for August 2021. 3-0-0**

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To approve the Treasurers Warrant for August 2021. 3-0-0**

## **Report of the Fire Chief**

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

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

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

- **emergency/non-emergency incidents:**

20 emergency incidents

**Training:**

- **Department:**

Procedures; Fireground Accountability; Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

- **Duty Crew:**

Firefighter 1 testing; Pumping Apparatus; Setting up Portable Water Tank; Fire Behavior; EMS Training; Dispatch; Hose line deployment and Fire Tech.

**Events:**

- National Night Out.

**Fire Prevention:**

- 4-Presale Home Inspections
- 1 Installation of Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detector

**Administration:**

- Met with the Health & Wellness Coordinator; met with a Member of the Three Rivers Chamber to plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Food Truck event; Health & Wellness Committee Meeting; Met with the new Assistant Principal at Pathfinder.

**Health & Wellness Update**

- Documents were handed out from the National Volunteer Fire Council.
- Covered the policies that have been in place since 2017 for Physical Fitness & Wellness and Fitness Program.
- Discussed the option of a Medical Examination (also was discussed at a previous meeting) for all firefighters. There was talk of the District finding a Dr. that everyone would go to but the one drawback with this is this Dr. would not have the patient's history and could still possibly miss something depending on how the firefighter answered the patient assessment. Chief feels it may be better to have each participant see their own Dr. to avoid missing any pre-existing condition. Chief also feels the Dr. should have a letter that states what they are signing off on. A short discussion took place on any conflict if the member uses their own insurance for this physical and the possible cost to the district if a member does not have insurance or any excess charge for what may not be covered. This Medical Examination is hopeful to be mandatory for every year, but some research will be done on this first by inquiring how many members already get a yearly physical. Also taking into consideration the age of the member and if they should have one done yearly or every other year.

Vice Chairman Czech questioned \$4,000 that is appropriated for Wellness. Chief states this year the funds were used for equipment but next year it could be used for Medical Examinations if needed.

Status of attendance is the same.

The Jaws of Life is back in service with new hoses.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Fire Chief for August 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 August 2021.

**Status of water systems:**

- Up to date with all monthly and quarterly samples.

**New Water Department Business:**

- 8/16 Steve Santos assisted with excavating 2 service lines that were inoperable.
- 8/18 Tom Gregoire Excavations assisted with excavating and repairing a leaking service line at 1247 Calkins Road.

### Bacteria Issue:

A lot has happened in the last 2 ½ weeks and the Water Superintendent is still working on things. A timeline of events is listed below.

- August 16 Three Rivers Water Department collected routine bacteria samples.
- August 18<sup>th</sup> the laboratory contacted the Water Department to let them know the Town Hall storage tank 1 and storage tank 2 tested positive for coliform bacteria requiring repeat samples upstream and downstream of all those locations. One of these samples contained E. coli. TRWD was not notified that the samples were positive until August 23<sup>rd</sup> due to an error by the analytical company, Contest. WS Connolly has spoken to Contest since then and they notified him that they were notified on Friday August 20<sup>th</sup> but two people that would have received this email were both on vacation. Those emails bounced back to the lab, and then should have contacted us but never did. We were notified on August 23<sup>rd</sup> upon their return to the office that there were positive results. Once we had those results, we immediately contacted the DEP. Flushing began and notification to the public took place. Positive samples trigger the boil order so the public notifications went out, Code Red for the town, WWLP22 was notified, ABC 40 news, alert went out on Facebook, the Town of Palmer website and notifications around town were posted at the fire station, post office, town hall and finally the board of health was notified.
- DEP then advised us to begin chlorinating the tanks. At this point we were in constant contact with the DEP to work on getting off the “boil order”. We will need 3 sets of clean samples from all regular routine sampling sights, along with up and downstream for both tanks. 6 samples up through Baptist Hill to come back clean across 3 sets if we were not going to chlorinate. If we chlorinate then only 2 sets of clean samples will be needed. At this point flushing continued around the distribution systems around Baptist Hill, High Street and Anderson (the storage tanks). DEP then gave the go ahead to take samples at those sights and that would be sufficient to clear us of the boil order.
- Samples were taken on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August and sent to Quabbin Analytical (a new laboratory is now being used). Our 1st set of samples came back clean, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets came back with coliform bacteria, no E. coli (*Coliform bacteria are not harmful in most cases, but if they are present in your water supply it is an indicator that other harmful and disease-causing bacteria may have also entered your drinking water supply. The presence of coliform bacteria in water does not guarantee that drinking the water will cause an illness. Rather, their presence indicates that a contamination pathway exists between a source of bacteria (surface water, septic system, animal waste, etc.) and the water supply. Disease-causing bacteria may use this pathway to enter the water supply. E. coli is one of the members of the Coliform group. It is a fecal bacteria which comes from the intestines of warm-blooded animals. The test shows the difference between E. Coli and other Coliforms. Drinking water is considered to be an “Extreme Health Hazard” when E. Coli is present*). In all the repeat samples no E. coli was detected only coliform. At this point DEP notified us that we could get off the “boil order” but will need to continue with some sort of chlorination system for the future.
- Well # 1’s sodium hydroxide pump was taken and put into Well #3 and started using it for sodium hydrochloride to disinfect (this took a few days to get into the system due to us having 1.5 million gallons of water in the storage tanks and we use only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of that a day). After about 3 days of getting chlorine into the system to an acceptable level (DEP wants to see a chlorine level of no less than .2 part per million) samples could then be taken.
- August 29<sup>th</sup> our 1<sup>st</sup> round of chlorinated samples were taken and came back clean.
- August 30<sup>th</sup> our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of chlorinated samples were taken and came back clean.
- August 31<sup>st</sup> the “boil order” was removed. We notified DEP and they in return sent a Problem Corrected Notice and we posted this online and notified the Board of Health.
- Now that we have had E. coli detection this triggered the DEP Level 2 Assessment (someone outside the district with licenses will go through our system; the wells, treatment plant, all sample sites, all storage tanks, will question any disruptions with the flow or any problems that could cause this issue and try to find an underlying problem). This was performed and no significant deficiencies were found. Contributing factors were already known, a lot of storage without a lot of turnover. We have had a large amount of rain this summer and it has been very hot. A lot of other towns are dealing with E. coli like this.
- W.S. Connolly did state that we are still chlorinating and will be for the near future at least.
- A new chlorine pump was purchased and installed new air locks for the pumps so it can turn on and off with the well. Chlorine alarms were installed that will call W.S. if it gets to low or to high.

The first packet the Committee was handed, in reference to the “boil order” packet shows that all things that needed to be done were completed by the W.S. Something will have to be added to the CCR next year notifying everyone of this event.

An application was submitted for State Revolving Funds for the tanks (funds that if borrowed would still need to be paid back at an interest rate of about 2%). The work needed to be done on the tanks are at a requested amount of \$1.8 million. With this there are hopes to purchase a mixer that goes into the water tanks which would help circulate the water in the tank to prevent stagnation. Some word on this application should be back to us on or around January 2022. If we do not get this, then we can look into the USDA funding.

Chairman Chiacchia questioned the cost of chlorine. Connolly's set up to date includes a pump, still containment, balance set up to monitor at a cost of approximately \$3,500. If this works out well maybe another can be purchased for the other well. Right now, were running only on one well, well # 3 (flows about 80% of our total).

The bacteria problem seems to be arrested.

**Review Wage Rates:**

- Wage rates for the 3 employees of the Water Department have not been reviewed in at least 1 year. There has been a request to increase their rate of pay. The Committee agrees that they should receive an increase, \$1.25 for Nicole and \$1.00 increase to Mary Ann and Rich effective the following Monday from this evening's meeting.

**MOTION (POBIEGLO; CZECH): To increase wages for the 3 Water Department Employees, \$1.25 for Nicole and \$1.00 for Mary Ann & Rich. Approved. 3-0-0**

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for August 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:**

- Vice Chairman Czech mentioned a purchase that was made by W.S. Connolly for barrels that he paid for out of his own pocket. The barrels were purchased for the pump station for chlorine. Norman has approved Chris to be reimbursed for this purchase.
- Norman also approved for chlorine to be supplied to us by a specific company. A short discussion took place about where the chlorine will be stored.

**MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:33 p.m. Approved 3-0-0**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

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

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

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

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