



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
Richard Pobiegló; Prudential Committee Clerk
Scott Turner; Fire Chief

Christopher Connolly; Water Superintendent
Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer
Sherrie Bellefleur; District Recording Secretary
David Basler; District Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the December 9, 2020 Open Meeting.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHIACCHIA): To approve the December 9, 2020 minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Fire Chief

Three Rivers Fire Chief Scott Turner presented his report of December 2020. Chief also handed the Board his Budgets for 2021-2022.

Calls and Activity for the month of December 2020:

Operations Calls/Incidents:

- **20 emergency/non-emergency incidents:** 3 Fire; 9 Rescue & EMS Incidents; 2 Hazardous Condition (No Fire); 2 Service Call; 3 Good Intent; 1 False Alarm & False Call.

Training:

- **Department:** Vehicle Extrication; Chimney Fires; Rapid Intervention Team; Rope Rescue and Foam Operations.
- **Duty Crew:** EMS First Responder Certification; Hazardous Materials; Pumping Water Supply; Driver, Ropes & Knots; Incident Command; Ladders, High-Angle Rescue, Fire Safety Inspection; Fire Department connection (FDC).

Events:

- Chamber of Commerce Santa Event.

Fire Prevention:

- 1-26F Inspection.
- Annual Bar Inspections consisted of Radars and Burgundy Brook. Still need to complete Amvets and St. Stans.

Administration:

- **Meetings:** Mass Fire Chiefs; Chamber of Commerce Event Planning.

A short discussion took place about a car fire that took place on Springfield Street. It was unknown who is in charge at a scene such as this. Chief Turner states that he, or a senior fire fighter is in charge at the scene, but police oversee traffic and crowd control.

Vice Chairman Chiacchia pointed out that the Santa Event in combination with the Chamber of Commerce was very well received.

Chief Turner questioned if the Board had a chance to review his proposal on the changing of the classification and pay rates for the fire fighters. Currently the fire fighters are receiving a \$2,000 per year stipend. Anyone on the department gets the same pay. They are classified as volunteer firefighters, but Chief would like to classify them as on-call firefighters and pay them an hourly rate for incidents, training and events (events being monthly meeting and firefighter duties, not parades or events of that nature). Members who work on the Duty Crew would also receive an hourly pay. Duty crew limitations are working less than 20 hours per week though. Officers would be paid hourly also. The results of these changes are to hopefully pay firefighters that give their all more than paying everyone equally whether they show up or not. The change is being requested for January 2021. The Board discussed their suggestions on timing of the change and the budgets with Chief Turner.

MOTION (CHACCHIA; POBIEGLO): To authorize Chief Turner to begin to implement/phase-in the change from Volunteer to On-Call and then revisit June 2021. 3-0-0

Covid-19 vaccine to date are 4 firefighters have received the vaccine.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHACCHIA): To accept the report of the Fire Chief for December 2020 as read by the Fire Chief Scott Turner. 3-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Chris Connolly presented his Report of the Water Superintendent for the month of December 2020. Chris handed to the Board an updated copy of the Employee Handbook and his Budget for 2021-2022.

Status of water systems:

- Up to date with no issues to report.

New Water Department Business:

- Three Rivers Water Department has updated the Employee Handbook for review by the Prudential Committee.
- Three Rivers Water Department has completed their 2nd and final round of backflow testing for the 2020 calendar year. All devices and their customers are in compliance with current regulations.
- 1st Quarter water bills were sent out on January 1, 2021.
- Rich K. has begun gathering 1st round of meter readings for Massachusetts requirements and reporting.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHACCHIA): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for December 2020 as read by Chris Connolly. Approved. 3-0-0

Report of the Treasurer

Review of December 2020 Financial Reports:

District Treasurer Lorinda Baker read her Report of the Treasurer for the month of December 2020.

December 2020:

Water Department:

- Hampden County Retirement contribution of approximately \$23,000 was paid in January of 2021 (paid in December the prior year, 2019).
- Year to Date improvements over prior year are due to lower expenses for repairs and chemical treatments.

Fire Department:

- Nothing unusual for December 2020.

District:

- All expenses are under budget except for the Hampden County Retirement.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHACCHIA): To accept the Report of the Treasurer for December 2020. 3-0-0

MOTION (CHACCHIA; POBIEGLO): To approve the Treasurers Warrant for December 2020. 3-0-0

New Business:

Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Fire Station.

Old Business:

Review the Employee Handbook. The Board went through the handbook to check for any revisions that may have been missed. A signature page will be added to the end of the Employee Handbook to enable the Board to sign and date this edition. Chiacchia commends the effort made on this handbook and recommends this be reviewed now either yearly or every other year.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHIACCHIA): To Accept the Boards review of the Employee Handbook as presented. Approved 3-0-0

The contracts for the Three Rivers Fire Chief and Water Superintendent were signed in by all Board members at this time.

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

None

Board Members Comments:

Things are moving forward and in a positive direction.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CHIACCHIA): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:25 p.m. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____