



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
Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer

Roll call finds David Basler; District Clerk absent from this evening's meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the September 8, 2021, Open Meeting.

MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To approve the September 8, 2021, minutes to the Open Meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

Matthew Lemieux, a former member of the Three Rivers Fire Department spoke out of concern for friends and family that live in the district. The first concern was there being a 30 min. response time for a CO call. The initial call went to 911 at 4:30 pm, 15 minutes later a call went back to 911 to ask if the FD was coming. He was assured the fire department was on their way. They did not actually arrive until 5:00 pm, 30 minutes after the initial call was made.

The 2nd concern was that Matthew had heard that a couple of the members had been promoted to officers. The last Lemieux knew was that anyone that had not been on the FD for 5 or more years was not eligible for an officer position. The two that have just been promoted he states have not been on the department for 5 or more years. He requested that this be checked into. Chairman Chiacchia has assured Matthew that it will be checked into.

John Modak, a district resident has asked to speak about why he personally was not notified about the e-coli in the water. He was also not notified of when it was okay to drink. He was informed that he should contact the Town Hall to sign up for the "Code Red".

The Electronic Boards were discussed for a short time. If anyone contacted the town hall and gave them the message to put out, they will do this also. Water Superintendent explained to Modak all the reasons for the possible e-coli issue along with talking about the issue with the lab that was being used at that time.

Lastly Modak asked why his water bill does not show his usage. Connolly assured John that they do give full usage 1 time per year on the July billing usually after the meter readings are completed.

Michael Matthieu; former Deputy Chief of the Three Rivers Fire Department spoke of the officer requirements that Matthew Lemieux brought up. He states that at one time there was also a rule that you could only have so many people on the department that lived outside of the district, and the other rule was you could not be an officer if you lived outside of town. Pobiegló did add you could be an officer if you worked within the district. It was in the rules and regulations, but it is not known if it still is.

Matthieu feels it is a problem to have 5 or 6 experienced trained firefighters with a lot of years just up and leave the department. This is supposed to be a call department, being made up of all kinds of people from different ages to different sizes and having different abilities. There was always something for them to do if they were willing to be there. He continued to say if a firefighter shows up to a call and is told he cannot go to the fire then why would he show up for the call. Matthieu feels that this is the reason why most of them left. The department cannot be run with outside of the district members mainly because the call response time is not good.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: None

Fitness Review Committee: None

Report of the Treasurer

Lorinda Baker; District Treasurer read the Report of the Treasurer for September 2021.

Water Department:

- Water receipts for September 2021 were \$32,259 over the prior year. A portion of this increase relates to shut-off/collection activities of the Water Department.
- YTD revenue is \$ 29,346 higher than prior year. Profit is \$3,428 ahead of prior year because Hampden County Retirement was paid early. Also, general insurance allocation will be done in October.

Fire Department:

- Nothing unusual to report for September.

District:

- Most accounts are well under budget

Water Department/District:

- Water Department checking account balance is now \$180,757. Some repayment of amounts paid by the District for Water Department should be paid back now.

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

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

Report of the Fire Chief

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

Calls and Activity for the month of September 2021:

Operations Calls/Incidents:

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

Training:

- **Department:**
TRFD procedures: fireground accountability, carbon monoxide detection and alarm activation, motor vehicle accident with entrapment.
- **Duty Crew:**
Single-family dwelling fire incident response, driver/operator training, ground ladders, hydrants, patient assessments, securing patients to backboards, oxygen delivery systems, portable fire extinguishers, vehicle stabilization, ground monitors, ropes & knots, confined space rescue.

Events:

- Boy Scouts of America Fire Safety Merit Badge Program (scouts were given a demonstration on how to safely remove a family member from a burning building which earned them a merit badge).

Fire Prevention:

- 3-Presale Home Inspections
- Pathfinder Fire Drill

Administration:

- Westcomm Regional 911 Conference, Wester Mass Fire Chiefs Association.

Staffing Update:

- Fire Chief Turner handed the Board an up-to-date roster consisting of 22 firefighters. Pobieglo asked of the 22 how many are outside of the district. 50% of that roster are within the district. The Captain and Lieutenant that are newly appointed officers both live outside of town in Ludlow.

Chief was out of town when the call in question came from Matthew Lemieux, he does plan to check with 461 and get the incident report for this call.

Chief handed the board a report of the average response time and turn out time going back to 2015 compared to now. They both show improvements. A discussion took place about the report and response times and how they vary from the different shifts. Vice Chairman Czech points out that nonetheless if it takes 30 minutes to respond to a call whether it was a CO call or a house fire 30 minutes is a problem. With 22 guys on the roster having only 13 that show up to a number of calls, (the rest of them were no shows). The actual number of guys that just resigned are 4. That leaves 9 guys that respond.

Chief Turner has said it is not usually he that is the one that issues warnings to the firefighters. It should be the Lieutenant but there was not a Lieutenant, so the warning had to be issued by the Chief. The warning was on attendance and not having their gear ready or not checking their gear. The warning was a Verbal Warning. Czech states this is a volunteer department, most members have lives, they have families and full-time jobs. He has asked what the crew that is there during the day doing? Can they help to check the air packs, gear and trucks?

During the Report of the Fire Chief, Prudential Committee Clerk Richard Pobieglo passed out a "No Confidence" notice in reference to Fire Chief Scott Turner. Summary is his feeling is the village has not been protected in areas of Safety of the Firefighters, number of qualified FF to protect the village, ability to manage the Department in a safe manner, time of response to the scene of incident is getting longer and keeping the village of Three Rivers resident and taxpayers safe. He has asked for an executive session within 30 days.

Clerk Pobieglo informed Chief Turner that his job is to listen to what the Board says. Chief feels the board stopped listening to him back in June. A disagreement took place resulting in calling for a future meeting. It is not known if it will be an open meeting or executive session, but a meeting will be called. Chief has informed the board that if this next meeting ends up being executive session, he will insist that it is a public executive session and not private. Chairman Chiacchia visited the subject of officers being out of town again. He feels the staffing and the out-of-town officers need to be discussed. Chief used as an example former Captain Gary Majka working in the district during the day but living outside of the district. When Gary responded to calls during the day he responded as Captain but at night if he responded he was not present as Captain. Another was Dan Daigle; he was a Deputy Chief that moved to Wilbraham. Chief says there are not any rules that say all officers must live in the district. Chairman requested and said the board needs to see a copy of the Fire Department Rules and Regulations. There are too many issues to discuss that the Chairman does not feel will be solved tonight so a meeting will be called in 5 to 10 days from now. Also, interest in speaking with the firefighters that have resigned was mentioned. Matt Lemieux submitted a formal letter of resignation and is willing to share a copy with the Board. Chief has offered to share with the Board his reasons for discipline.

Pobieglo asked Chief if he has done anything to try and recruit people to the department of recent. Chief goes to schools; he puts ads in the paper and has started an explorer program. The explorer program is doing well says Chief.

MOTION: There was no motion to accept the report of the Fire Chief for September 2021 as read by the Fire Chief Scott Turner.

0-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Water Superintendent Chris Connolly read his report of September 2021.

Status of water systems:

- Up to date with all monthly and quarterly samples.

New Water Department Business:

- 10/6 Steve Santos assisted with excavating and capping an abandoned line that terminated in the pump station.
- TRWD has started the fall flushing program, this will help with descaling water lines and removing sedimentation.

Bacteria Issue:

- 9/30 Chris McClure documented the new chlorine injection system as needed for registering as a chlorine system which is required by MassDEP.

Review Wage Rates:

- Wage rates have been adjusted as discussed in the previous meeting (September 8, 2021).

MOTION (POBIEGLO; CZECH): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for September 2021 as read by Chris Connolly. Approved. 3-0-0

New Business:

- Review Recording Secretary Pay Rate was tabled at this evening’s meeting.

Old Business:

- None

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

- None

Board Members Comments:

MOTION (CZECH; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:26 p.m. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Stephen Chiacchia, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____