



Three Rivers Fire District  
50 Springfield Street  
Three Rivers, MA 01080

# Prudential Committee Minutes

November 13, 2013

Chairman Domey called a meeting of the Prudential Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Raymond Domey, Chairman  
Donald Reim, Vice Chairman  
William Jalbert, Clerk  
John Sasur, Water Superintendent

John Chmura, District Treasurer  
Patrick O'Connor, District Clerk  
Scott Turner, Fire Chief  
Diane Baldyga, District Secretary  
Paul Holcomb, P&D Landscaping

## Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting of October 9, 2013. Clerk Jalbert asked for clarification as to why leasing the property off Baptist Hill by AT&T needed to go out to bid. Chairman Domey explained that Attorney Hassett checked with the Inspector General's office, as did AT&T, and was told that the lease must be put out to bid in case another company would like to bid on it.

**MOTION (JALBERT, REIM): To approve the minutes from the meeting of October 9, 2013. Approved 3-0.**

The minutes from the Special District meeting on October 29, 2013 will be placed in the District files.

## Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Chmura presented the Committee with the Profit and Loss statement from October and the checks that were transacted. He noted that everything was in order. His analysis indicated that most expenses were running about the same as last year's expenses.

The exceptions were:

1. Legal services—over budget due to a land purchase and the casino issue.
2. Fire Department expenses—over budget by about \$4,000 due to Health Club payments and Water Rescue Training.
3. Water Department expenses—over budget approximately \$8,000.

Chmura continued his analysis by observing that most accounts were under budget for the year, and that Water Department receipts were over \$47,000 more than last year's.

The need for a separate account for training was discussed. Chairman Domey would also like a more detailed breakdown of accounts so the Committee can easily ascertain the nature of expenditures. Chmura will get a listing of year-to-date charges for the next meeting. W.S. Sasur explained how a line item may be over budget, but the operating expense stays within budget. Domey recommended that the Fire Chief start thinking about next year's budget. He also would like the Fire Chief and Water Superintendent to be able to view their Department's current budget information online.

The Treasurer said that Stephen Marhelewicz was ready for the annual audit to be done and will speak to Stephen Chiacchia about starting it.

**MOTION (JALBERT, REIM): To authorize an audit of last year's accounts. Approved 3-0.**

Chairman Domey said that the closing on the Royce property will take place during the week of November 18. Stephen Marhelewicz has already written a check for \$14,000, the balance owed on the purchase price.

The lease of property on Baptist Hill Road was placed on the state's bid list incorrectly. The time allotment had to be corrected to read, "a five-year deal with five renewals."

W.S. Sasur provided a list of the specifications for a Water Department vehicle. Although the initial package came to \$47,000 from the state's bid process, locally fabricated modifications brought the price down to \$42,000, which is well under budget. The snow plow for the new vehicle will be a little different than the one on the department's current truck. He said it will do a better job plowing. As a

courtesy, the Water Department has been plowing the fire station as well as the pumping stations, wells, water tanks, and fire hydrants, which saves the District a significant amount of money. Plowing the Fire Station would cost the District \$200 per storm. The Water Superintendent feels that the plow pays for itself and is a good investment. He also mentioned that he disposed of some scrap metal to a scrap dealer and gave the check to the District.

The Fire Department wants to dispose of two vehicles. Fire Chief Turner will discuss the process with Treasurer Chmura. Chairman Domey will give Chmura the state's manual with the process required for municipal vehicle disposal. Domey requested that the Fire Chief and Water Superintendent give Chmura copies of all District keys and codes.

Chmura informed the Committee that he will be out of Town over Thanksgiving weekend and was concerned about signing checks. District Clerk O'Connor responded that checks will be done on Wednesday, and he could sign them then. A discussion was held concerning holding back a paycheck for hourly-paid District employees. This would not affect salaried employees. This practice coincides with the Town's procedure as well as most businesses. The Water Superintendent will talk with Scott Majka to get his opinion.

**MOTION (JALBERT, REIM): To accept and approve the Treasurer's Warrant. Approved 3-0.**

**MOTION (JALBERT, REIM): To accept and approve the Treasurer's Report. Approved 3-0.**

### **Report of the Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Turner submitted the call report for the month of October 2013. A total of ten (10) calls were received: two (2) all calls and eight (8) duty-officer calls.

Although the issue of snow plowing at the Fire Station was already addressed, W.S. Sasur qualified the Water Department's position that snow plowing is not part of its job. If expectations were that plowing be done more than once or twice a night then that could pose a problem as it is done gratis. Fire Chief Turner suggested putting snow plowing in the budget for next year. Domey said that with two snow plows on the trucks, the Water Superintendent should work out a schedule with his employee. Water Department gas expenses as well as employee wages were concerns brought out by Clerk Jalbert and Vice Chairman Reim.

Fire Chief Turner spoke with Jean Bacauskas to find out when December's payroll needed to be done. The checks should be available the week of December 9, so he will submit the payroll the week of December 2.

Pathfinder has applied for a grant for a new computer-based program that ties in everything at the school from cameras, to hazardous material storage, to zones and rooms. The Police Chief and Fire Chief will have online access in case of any type of threat or accident. This is a Pilot Program nationwide. The only other one in the area is at a hospital in Boston. All expenses will be paid for by the grant.

**MOTION (JALBERT, REIM): To accept the report of the Fire Chief. Approved 3-0.**

### **Report of the Water Superintendent**

W.S. Sasur updated the Committee about the following items:

- Receipt of a notice of non-compliance by the state for failure to test for a contaminant--perchlorate. No action is necessary. Testing was done, but the lab failed to send the report in a timely fashion. The District did not "fail to monitor" but "failed to report." The Water Superintendent will pursue clarification about a number of issues concerning this notice.
- No lead contamination exists in the water supply. The copper level, however, marginally exceeded the limits so some levels of treatment were bumped up to compensate. Monitoring will continue.
- New manganese testing requirements will become mandated as it was found to be a potentially harmful mineral.
- A meeting took place on October 24 for the Water Department/District Office building. New locations that might become available for the District offices were discussed. Chairman Domey feels strongly that the original location is centrally situated among the three water districts. The property is where the pumps and water are located so it makes a lot of sense to have the building at this site. Domey said that the building site had already been approved by the state. W.S. Sasur pointed out that with the coordinated water study, the potential to expand with the other water districts, and the long-term plan of the current fire station, thoughts of a new design should be considered. District Clerk O'Connor noted that 40 years remained on the lease of the present fire station. Domey stated that the structure is being built for the Three Rivers Water District, and that neither Thorndike nor Bondsville are interested in combining departments. Clerk Jalbert asked if it would house Fire District trucks, and was told it

might house one or two. Sasur and O’Connor questioned whether the building will be a Water Department facility or a combination for District Offices, Meeting Rooms, and Water Department. Sasur feels we need to be planning for the future. Domey suggested a building that could be expanded. He felt that the safest place for District offices is with the Water Department and that a meeting room would be necessary. The Water Superintendent’s opinion is that eventually the Water Districts may need to merge together to survive, but the Fire Districts will remain separate. The next meeting is on November 21.

- Water shut-offs were performed on delinquent accounts unless acceptable arrangements were made with the Collection Clerk. All the shut-offs were on vacant buildings.
- The Coordinated Water Study consulted engineers regarding the priority of either an interconnection among the villages or the construction of a water tower in Bondsville. Tata and Howard recommended that the water tower be done first so the departments become hydraulically equal and then proceed with the interconnection. How to apply for funding and apportion it among the villages is the next obstacle to be worked out. Chairman Domey stated that some type of pact (coordinated effort) needs to be made with Bondsville by next May’s elections.
- Pets have now been banned from areas of public water supply due to new testing that will be required for pharmaceuticals in the soil. People may still walk and hike in these areas. Signs have been posted on the property involved. The police have not been notified because the Water Department will inform the public if need be.
- Power washing the water tank and tree trimming in that area has been completed.
- A letter from Converse Middle School was received. It was looking for a donation. Chairman Domey said that cannot be done.
- Chairman Domey asked Fire Chief Turner if he ever got a credit card. He did not so W.S. Sasur will set it up for him.

**MOTION (JALBERT, REIM): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent. Approved 3-0.**

Vice Chairman Reim complimented the Water Superintendent for painting and rebuilding the fire hydrants.

**Old Business**

Paul Holcomb, from P&D Landscaping, reported that he had finished with the fall cleanup of leaves and debris at the Anderson Street Reservoir. He offered to return if additional accumulation occurs because of the wind. The Committee approved the invoice submitted.

**New Business**

No New Business.

Having no further business to conduct in open session, Chairman Domey requested a motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on December 11, 2013.

**MOTION (JALBERT, REIM): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 9:02 p.m. Approved 3-0.**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Baldyga, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Raymond Domey, Chairman

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

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