



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 6:32 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Norman Czech; Prudential Committee Chairman
Richard Pobiegló; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman
Andrea Sullivan; Prudential Committee Clerk

Lorinda Baker; Three Rivers District Treasurer
Nicole Dewberry; Three Rivers Water Superintendent
Guy Bellefleur; Three Rivers District Clerk
Sherrie Bellefleur; Three Rivers Recording Secretary

Roll Call

Scott Turner: Three Rivers Fire Chief is not present at this evening's meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the October 5, 2022, Meeting.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To approve the October 5, 2022, minutes to the Meeting. 3-0-0

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports

None

Report of the Treasurer

Lorinda Baker: District Treasurer reports that there is no Report of the Treasurer ready for this evening's meeting being it is still too early in the month to have this completed for tonight. October's report will be presented at the December 2022 meeting.

Report of the Fire Chief

Fire Chief Scott Turner has left his October 2022 Report of the Fire Chief with the committee to review.

Message from the Chief:

Emergency dispatches were low for the month of October. Members of the Duty Crew put hours into the Public Safety and Fire Prevention Programs as well as emergency medical services (EMS) training, and vehicle maintenance.

Operations:

- **Emergency Incident response:** The department was dispatched to 16 emergency incidents for the month. These incidents include 2 Fires, 6 Rescue & EMS incidents, 2 Hazardous Condition (No Fire), 2 Service Calls and 4 Good Intent calls.
- **Service Calls:** 23. These calls include fire safety inspections, smoke & CO alarm installations, open burning regulations, assisting town agencies and fire safety code inquiries.

Apparatus and Equipment:

- Car 2; 2005 Chevy Tahoe is out of service 8/27, Engine 2; 1995 KME is reserve 10/01 and all the rest is in service.

Fire Prevention:

- 12 pre-sale home inspection.
- 3 smoke and carbon monoxide detector installation.

Training:

- Mobile Live Fire Training
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Second arriving Engine strategy and tactics.

Events:

- AMVETS Halloween Parade.

A purchase for a cutter and spreader package was discussed and the invoice was reviewed. This is with a charger and 2 extra batteries from Firematic Supply Company.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; SULLIVAN): To approve the purchase from the Firematic Supply Company for extrication tools, cutters, and spreaders with charger and 2 extra batteries. Approved 3-0-0

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Fire Chief Scott Turner for October 2022. Approved 3-0-0

Report of the Water Superintendent

Nicole Newberry presented the Report of the Water Superintendent for October 2022.

Status of water systems:

- Well #3 was down for a couple of weeks while we ordered replacement parts for the chlorine pump.
- Mac passed his level 1 distribution exam and submitted an application for his in-training license.
- A resident submitted a complaint to the EPA, and the EPA passed it on to the DEP. They required us to write a letter to discuss the customer's concerns, and to collect an iron and manganese sample to submit to the lab for testing. The results of the sample are well within regulatory limits.
- Hydrant flushing will begin as soon as Nicole Dewberry gets a meter to keep track of the number of gallons that we are flushing. Currently there is 20% unaccounted for water. There are hopes a meter can help us get a more accurate number. The DEP would like the percentage to be brought down to 10%. Once the flushing begins Brian McNutt the Town Manager will do an All-call to all of the residents.

Update on Tank Project:

- The application was submitted by McClure Engineering on the deadline.
- The application does not include McClure's design. They said that this will follow.
- Ms. Dewberry was unable to determine if the letter from Locke and Lord meets DEP's requirements. DEP said that the letter will satisfy their deadline, and late they will consult with their colleagues to determine if any revisions should be made to this letter in the future.
- We will receive DEP's reply within the next couple of months, along with a list of required revisions.

Meter Rates and Other Charges to Consider:

- Consider renegotiating the Water Purchase Agreement with the Thorndike Prudential Committee. The Board will reach out to Thorndike and discuss the rates with them. Currently Thorndike purchases water from Palmer and Bondsville so we also would like to be competitive with what the other towns are charging Thorndike.

DEP's Water Management Act Program:

- Is the Board interested in signing the comments to ask the DEP to change their proposed regulations? If there is a drought in a region, then the fire departments would have to enforce a water restriction based on how severe the drought is. The comments are from Jen Peterson of Mass Water Works being that instead of every water department being treated the same each would be treated differently with this drought enforcement. A short discussion took place on this subject. The whole committee signed this document at this evening's meeting.

Digital Files:

- Purchase external drives or a network, to organize digital files. This was discussed some, but Ms. Dewberry would like to think about a secure place to organize the files. Chairman Norman Czech suggests looking into the Cloud.

Interviews:

- What is the next step in the hiring process? Once a decision has been made then the Chairman can call a special meeting with the Board. It is good for Clerk Andrea Sullivan and Water Department Secretary Mary Ann Duguay along with Water Superintendent Nicole Dewberry to make the decision first then the Committee will meet.

Lead Pipe Service Lines:

- The EAP is enforcing the DEP document on all the service lines. They are going to create a phone app. Presumably not a lot of people are going to use a phone app so Ms. Dewberry feels they will have a busy winter knocking on doors to go into residents' basements and then completing the forms. The homeowner is responsible for pipes from the road to their home. If lead pipes are found (which is doubtful) a payment plan is suggested to be worked out if the homeowner cannot afford to replace the lead pipes. This could cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to complete.

Mary Retirement:

- Plan something (a gift, a gathering, something else) to congratulate Mary Ann on her retirement. Discussion resulted in Ms. Sullivan taking responsibility in purchasing a gift for the occasion.

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for October 2022. Approved. 3-0-0

Board Members Comments:

None

New Business:

- **Cell Tower Project**
 - A discussion took place on the taxes for the cell tower. It appears that the cost for taxes could be as much as \$3,000. Nicole Dewberry feels that the language in the contract is unclear as to who is responsible to pay these taxes. The size of the tower that our district would be leasing is 60 x 60.
 - Also in question is their insurance. It looks like they have their own insurance but then want us to buy insurance that includes them. It seems that from our perspective they should buy the insurance and we should be covered if in the event we were on the property and were injured.
 - Lastly there is a new sentence added to the contract that is questionable. It is the point of if the contract ended where does that leave us. Added was "in the event of termination of this lease, any remaining lessees' licenses then in existence shall be assigned tenant to landlord." The cell tower would be the tenant and the district is the landlord so the district would be directly obligated to fulfill the contract of the cell companies.
 - A bond in escrow was brought up by Ms. Sullivan with Chairman Czech assuring all that when this comes in the town is going to require a bond for removal and restoration that we do with all of the cell towers. A call to Brad with all our questions will take place with a combined effort from Mr. Pobieгло and Ms. Dewberry.
 - Chairman Norman Czech has a letter from Nicole Dewberry that needs the boards signature. This will go to Dave, should we receive the grant funding and what accounts it needs to go in to (e.g. fire district account or the water district account).
- **Palmer Tax Classification**
 - District Clerk Guy Bellefleur has informed Mr. Czech that everything with this is all set, and the account has now been set up in Mr. Bellefleur's name. Chairman says a vote needs to be taken because it is on the agenda. Mr. Bellefleur did ask if the District Accountant Steve Marhelewicz reached out to the Chairman to be sure the figures were accurate. Carrie Ann from the Assessors office is looking for a vote on a single tax rate.

MOTION (POBIEGLO; SULLIVAN): To adopt/keep the Single Tax Rate for the Three Rivers Fire District. Approved. 3-0-0

Old Business:

None

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

MOTION (SULLIVAN; POBIEGLO): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:36 pm. Approved 3-0-0

Submitted by:

Sherrie Bellefleur, District Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved as to Form and Content:

Norman Czech, Chairman

Date: _____