



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

# Prudential Committee Minutes

December 18, 2024

Chairman Norman Czech called a meeting of the Prudential Committee to order at 6:34 p.m.

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Norman Czech; Prudential Committee Chairman  
Andrea Sullivan; Prudential Committee Vice Chairman  
Mark Bogacz; Prudential Committee Clerk  
Steve Nodurf; Fire Chief

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

## **Roll Call**

## **The Pledge of Allegiance was recited**

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Prudential Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the November 20 & 27, 2024 meetings.

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): To approve November 20 & 27, 2024, minutes to the meeting. 3-0-0**

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Committee Reports**

None

## **Report of the Treasurer**

Lorinda Baker read her Report of the Treasurer for November 2024

### **November 2024**

#### **Water Department:**

- Receipts/Total Income for November 2024 was \$ 52,558.55 (an increase of \$33,977.55 over November 2023).
- Expenses for November 2024 were \$ 27,726.29 (a decrease of \$ 1,038.16 from November 2023).
- Net income for November 2024 was \$24,832.26 (an increase of \$19,619.16 over November 2023).
- All expense accounts within budget.

#### **Fire Department:**

- No issues

#### **District:**

- No issues

**MOTION (BOGACZ; SULLIVAN): To accept the Treasurers Report for November 2024. Approved. 3-0-0**

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): To accept the Treasurers Warrant for November 2024. Approved. 3-0-0**

## **Report of the Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Steve Nodurf read his Report of the Fire Chief for November 2024.

Chairman said that \$20K was budgeted at last year's finance meeting and the fire department has gone through almost all of this. The Fire Chief did mention tires were needed on Engine #2.

The Fire Chief is still mentoring with Dave Mottor.

The Building Commissioner is going to start to do 111 inspections which are on multi families. These inspections have not been done in the town of Palmer in over 10 to 12 years. There are approximately 860 in the Town of Palmer and if you break them up proportionately, Three Rivers has about 1/3 of them. Half of these must be done by June 2025.

A citation was written to a resident for illegal burning and that resident came to pay the citation with the Fire Chief on this day.

2 new members have come on to the fire department and 2 more in the works. These new 4 are not in town residents but they are very close to the town line. 2 of them are Cadets that have turned 18 and can now actually be firefighters on the department. His Roster is 20 but of that 20, 7 he can rely on.

### **November 2024**

#### **Administration:**

- Grant Compliance
- Building out Emergency Networking
- Developing a Capital Improvement Plan
- Preliminary Budget Work
- Chief Officer Program
- Chiefs meeting with the Town Manager
- Strategic Planning
- WMFCA Meeting

#### **Emergency Responses:**

- 25 Emergency Responses

#### **Fire Prevention/Education:**

- 3 26F Presale Inspections
- 2 Photovoltaic Inspections

#### **Operations:**

- None listed

#### **Training:**

- Two-Person Engine Company Operations
- Chimney Fire Training
- Radio Operations
- EFR Skills

#### **Events:**

- None listed

Chief has spent some time at the water department pump station and has commented that the chlorine smell is very bad in there. Ms. Sullivan concurs.

Ms. Sullivan asked about the addition and if the chief has received his 3<sup>rd</sup> quote, yet He says he is still missing a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote. It was described to Chief that he should have a plan drawn up so that everyone that bids can bid on the same plan.

Bob Haveles has looked at the project and said he would give a quote on the plan.

Chief also spoke to Dave Clark about renting space at the Palmer Ambulance building to store the rescue vehicle. No answer on that has been given yet.

No updates on the new brush truck. The chief is waiting on a new invoice. There was money left on the table that now requires a new invoice to be drawn up.

The property on Palmer Road that was condemned is still technically labeled as condemned. People are staying there at their own risk but the major reasons for it being condemned were repaired but again it is still condemned by the Town of Palmer.

**MOTION (BOGACZ; SULLIVAN): To accept the report of the Fire Chief for November 2024. Approved 3-0-0**

## **Report of the Water Superintendent**

Nicole Dewberry read her Report of the Water Superintendent for November 2024.

### **Status of the Water System**

- Rich and Mac have made some progress with cleaning the garage.
- Mac and Ms. Dewberry have continued their work at the pump station. They finished replacing all the tubing, and they cleaned everything in advance of winter.
- The curb stop was repaired at 2066-2072 Palmer Road.
- The hydrant on the corner of Anderson was leaking even after they replaced the wearable parts, and so they replaced it.
- The probes in the pump station that test chlorine, and pH has been repeatedly staining with rust. This staining throws off the readings, which has been causing the alarm to call out more frequently. They asked for advice from Mass Rural Water, and they aren't certain about the cause. It may be because we haven't had a lot of rain lately and so some rust is coming out of the wells.

### **Life Insurance**

Ms. Dewberry forwarded an email to the Board from Wendy on the Life Insurance. Chairman Czech did point out that the email had no pricing. Chief Nodurf is going to follow up on his end with other options for the life insurance.

### **Tank Restoration**

The contract for the tank restoration projects draft has come in and has been forwarded to the attorneys.

Budget discussions for the next fiscal year consisted of some invoices to date from the excavator just to give an idea of what was spent so far. Ms. Dewberry went over her submitted budgets including a hydraulic study, a little cushion for the tank restoration project just in case and a hired helper for the hydrant repairs. The Windows 10 computer cannot take an upgrade to Windows 11 so a new computer will be needed (by October).

Ms. Dewberry did have with her three quotes on **hydraulic study**, one being \$22,000-\$23,000, the second on \$28,000 and the third was \$ 38,000. (This study would have to go in under a regular Article either way. The garage will also have to in under a separate Article also.

**The computer discussion:** there is \$10,400 budgeted for this type of purchase already so if there is enough left a computer can be purchased from this account. Otherwise, it can be figured out when the time comes.

Chairman spoke some of his increasing items on the budget requests from Ms. Dewberry assuring her he did increase items but will wait to hear from the accountants on retirement etc.

**Hiring help for hydrant repairs discussion:** Chairman says the water department has Rich and Mack. They could repair 1 hydrant per week. Ms. Dewberry states that Rich works 3 ¼ hours per day, doing all the same work that Ms. Dewberry and Mack does earning a lot less money to do it. Mr. Czech recommends scheduling to do 1 hydrant per week. Ms. Sullivan interjects saying if a new person is hired to repair hydrants, who will go with that new person because someone will have to train this person. Ms. Dewberry's suggestion of who to hire is a former water department employee and already knows the job. The Board has asked direct questions about what this new hires position will be, if they know the job and what will this employee do when there are no longer hydrants to repair. Ms. Dewberry did not have firm answers to these questions. Ms. Sullivan feels there are too many "ifs". Mr. Bogacz asked how many hydrants desperately need to be repaired throughout the winter. The winter is not the time to repair hydrants because touching the metal in the very cold weather is just not able to be done.

Parts for a hydrant that broke and needed repair this month cost over \$1,000. Luckily the labor was free but that will not happen all of the time. If a hydrant is rehabbed it is over \$500. You are spending more if the preventative maintenance is not performed. Mr. Czech says again that a schedule, within the department should be made. Ms. Dewberry says preventative maintenance comes only when they have time for it. Because the department is small, they are reactionary before we are preventative. So, it

all depends on the kind of week they are having. Ms. Sullivan feels Ms. Dewberry is not saying the hydrant repairs are priority even though she states it is always in the news when a house fire happens, and the hydrant is not working properly because it needed repairs. Ms. Dewberry stresses this is why she would like to hire someone to help with the repairs. Some discussion on the budget having a line item that would allow her to hire someone took place but this was not agreed upon. Mr. Bogacz has offered, to learn how to repair a hydrant, and if there is no insurance issue, could help to repair the hydrants.

A request to the Board has been made to consider using Unipay for the town residents to pay their water bills if they wanted to. Lorinda Baker will investigate this.

**MOTION (BOGACZ; SULLIVAN): To accept the report of the Water Superintendent for November 2024. Approved 3-0-0**

**Board Members Comments:**

None

**New Business:**

Budget discussion took place within the water department session but stated is the Board is only missing the budget from the Fire Chief. All others have been submitted.

**Old Business:**

None

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

**MOTION (SULLIVAN; BOGACZ): To adjourn from the Open Meeting at 7:31 pm. Approved 3-0-0**

Submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman Czech, Chairman

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

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