

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
August 25, 2014

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Rich Kuklewicz, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee Member
Bob Escott, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant

Jeanne Golrick, resident of Millers Falls

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes accepted – August 4th minutes were accepted with two small corrections.

Chief's Report

Fire Alarm Project update – Bob presented letter for our use of radio system to be signed by Chairman. New system should be in place and the end of September.

Discussion followed about fire alarm boxes that will be removed and what to do with them. The Fire Association would like to sell the boxes and use the money to purchase a piece of equipment for the Fire Department. It was suggested to offer them for sale to our residents first. Bob will get more facts on the actual number which he estimates to be about 35 fire boxes and the average selling prices on E-Bay. Prudential Committee will act to declare surplus at future meeting when they have more information.

We will be needing funds to pay off this project. Treasurer and Accountant are in the process of securing the necessary loan.

Jeanne Golrick arrived at this time and addressed the Committee. She complimented the Fire Department on their response to a vehicle accident involving her property recently. She presented water bills and asked to clarify confusion involving Fire District and Water Department. Eileen explained the relationship. Under the freedom of information law, Jeanne presented a letter requesting documentation for how we are all interrelated, and other information as it relates to her housing court issue.

Jeanne left at this time.

Eileen will draft response to some items requested and David will review. Bob will respond also as it relates to the Fire Department involvement in housing court. Bob explained that the issue with her property involved building codes and fire codes and the Town's attorney used the fire codes because they have more teeth.

Military Leave – Acting Deputy Chief for this month, Captain Brunelle, is gone this week for military leave.

New Deputy Chief position – Exam is scheduled for September 10. Promotion will be October 1. Oral interviews are scheduled for Monday September 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Safety Complex conference room.

Second Ambulance – Chief has not heard anything back from MedCare about a used ambulance from them.

Insurance on Chief's Vehicle – Bob checked with our insurance agent, Partridge-Zchau about personal use of vehicle and if Prudential Committee approves the use of the vehicle then it will be covered by District's Insurance. Bob has changed his contract to reflect limited personal use of the vehicle

Chapter 111F Benefits – Received a response from our attorney at Kopelman and Paige about our employees being insured as part of the Tech Rescue Team. This is a complicated issue and our attorney is of the opinion that because our employees are volunteering to join then the District may deny claims under Sec 111F, but it can choose to allow it. Another Fire Department's attorney has another opinion of this matter and Bob is trying to obtain a copy of this letter. Discussion followed.

Chief's contract was presented to the Prudential Committee. Dave Zamojski made motion to approve new 3-year contract for Bob. All in favor. Contract was signed by Prudential Committee.

Chief reviewed FY15 Budget.

Accountant's Report

Retiree Drug Subsidy – Eileen explained to new member Jay this RDS due from the Town of Montague. She will have dollar amount by next meeting.

Fire Alarm project loan - bid opening will be this Thursday, August 28.

Special District Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16. Eileen explained the article requesting that the District request legislation to be included like a town for enterprise funds, revolving funds and for the special reference in the current law for ambulance services. We would like to use the enterprise fund now but we do not know how this would change in the future, so we are asking for all three references to the law per suggestion of our attorney, Mark Reich from Kopelman and Paige. Pat Squillante from our auditing firm Melanson & Heath agrees.

Next Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 6th

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

