

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
May 4, 2015

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

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Minutes accepted – April 6, 2015 minutes were approved.

Invoice warrants – were reviewed and signed by the Prudential Committee.

Prudential Committee Chairman – David was nominated to serve for another year as Chairman by Rich. Jay seconded. All in favor.

Chief's Report

Ambulance Collections and Receivables - April was slow, with \$1,000 in billings and \$600 in collections. Four accounts were sent certified letters by Bob and two were returned. It was decided to use First Financial Resources out of Framingham, Mass for collections. Their fee is 33 1/3% of what is collected.

Montague Reporter article – letter written by former Prudential Committee Member, Joe Janikas, which was published in the Montague Reporter was discussed, concerning what he considered not enough warning for the District's Annual Meeting along with the average firefighter's salary of \$84,000. Joe had requested the salary information from Eileen.

Joe is requesting that the warrant be posted as a legal ad in the newspapers, but Eileen recalled the expense of it in past years and suggested that we post the warrant on the Fire Department and Water Department's websites, noting the webs' addresses in the mini-ad in the newspaper. Typically we have had news articles written for big ticket items. It was decided that next year we will post it on our websites, have more visible mini-ads, post it on the Cable TV, and try to have small news articles written. Eileen will convey message to District Clerk.

Probationary Firefighter – Geoff was taking his PAT test when his helmet fell off, resulting in a delay in his response, and he failed the PAT. It sounds like a glitch since he passed our physical standards. We will pay for the expense of \$150 for one more retake of the PAT.

FY15 budget – Bob thinks the Fire budget will be about \$11,000 in the red. Captain Brunelle will get orders for his four-month military deployment shortly. Eileen

explained that there should be sufficient excess funds in the General Government budget to cover the deficit in Fire.

Insurance for Firefighters' injuries – Eileen will contact Partridge-Zschau to increase weekly benefit to \$750.

Capital Spending plan – Bob e-mailed his plan. It was decided to table until the next Prudential Committee meeting.

Fire Department overtime was discussed. Bob explained how there are more call backs. Discussion followed. Mutual aid calls were discussed. We could be at the point where we may need to hire more employees.

COG meeting – Bob noted that surveys were given to various town officials regarding fire data. Mutual aid is great, but the delicate subject of 4 ladder trucks financed by four towns being used by many more towns is an issue.

Accountant's Report

Annual Meeting – Eileen noted that we had 29 voters, with a quorum of 25 . Only one question was asked. Forty six voters came in on election day, April 28.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.