

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
February 1, 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 5:04 p.m.

Minutes of prior meetings– Minutes were approved for the January 4th meeting.

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

Chief's Report

There were 115 calls in January.

FY16 budget is so far on track.

Medicare – Bob received a packet from Medicare, but the information seems to be generic on runs for our area.

Special Article requests:

1. Deputy vehicle – requesting a pick-up truck with an estimated cost of \$48,000 to \$50,000
2. Stabilization fund transfer for fire vehicle - \$50,000
3. Chief will most likely be retiring – we will need to fund unused vacation and sick leave which is approximately \$39,000
4. Used Ambulance - \$40,000-\$60,000

It was noted that ambulance collections are down for FY16 so far.

Preliminary FY2017 fire budget was reviewed with 2 additional staff in the Fire Department. Eileen noted that general government expenses for insurance and retirement will increase by approximately \$59,000 for two additional staff. Health insurance will be increasing by 6.6% and 7.6 % for next year. Also our OPEB obligation will increase with additional staff.

The need for more fire manpower was discussed. Bob will follow up with the Greenfield Recorder about our manpower issue & Jay will get in touch with the Montague Reporter.

Ambulance budget for FY2017 was reviewed.

Contract negotiations – the union would like to sit down and talk. Discussion followed. The Prudential Committee likes the idea of opening contract negotiations. Bob will send a letter to the union requesting to open the contract in a few weeks.

The Prudential Committee will meet with the union at the Fire Station on Thursday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Accountant's Report

Eileen noted that the special state legislation for our District for our ambulance service was just signed by the governor.

Preliminary FY2017 General Government budget was reviewed.

We have received the draft of our FY15 audited Financial Statements and Management Letter Comments. Eileen reviewed the comments, among them the suggestion that we should start allocating ambulance administrative costs to the ambulance fund.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 5:00 p.m at the Fire Station. The Prudential Committee will meet with the union after their monthly meeting. This will be at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Annual meeting will be Tuesday, April 19th and annual elections will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.