

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
March 21, 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 5:18 p.m.

Minutes of prior meetings– Minutes were approved for the February 25th meeting.

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

Review of FY17 Budgets and Special Articles

Eileen handed out proposed budgets without 2 additional firefighters and with 2 additional firefighters and also a five-year summary of requests from taxation and special articles. Recommendation of additional staff is being made because of increased calls to the Fire Department. Discussion followed about the impact on the tax rate and the purchase of a pickup truck. It was decided not to request a transfer to stabilization this year.

Dave Thompson asked if it was the goal to hire more firefighters in future years. He may not be on board with that idea. Chief explained that he would recommend we hire more in future years to become a primary ambulance service. Rich noted that this should include the whole town before we move in that direction.

Ambulance receipts for FY16 were reviewed and discussed. Accountant does not think that we will have enough ambulance surplus yet to afford a lease payment for another ambulance. It was decided not to request funding for additional ambulance this year and to revise the FY17 ambulance budget to reflect this.

It was decided to recommend the budgets with two additional staff and we will have the lower budgets on hand at the annual meeting. Bob explained the staffing of three on days in the proposed budget to the Finance Committee members. Rich noted that he thought we should at some point implement a pay scale for the Fire Department.

Chief's Report

Bob noted that we now have FY16 minutes posted on Fire website, along with the budgets and special articles for the past five years.

Fire Department shared resources – a regional call force was discussed and it was decided that it was not going to work. It was discussed that maybe we should have a regional fire department with 2 or three stations within. Other smaller towns don't seem to be interested in regionalization and pulled out of the idea. Turners and Greenfield seem to be the towns that are still interested in this. The COG will be calling a meeting and inviting the selectboards and prudential committees of area towns to discuss this. Bob mentioned again that our taxpayers are supporting mutual aid to other towns and this needs to be addressed. Discussion followed.

FY 16 Fire budget was reviewed.

Amended articles for union contract – Bob has copy of what was discussed last month and it will be signed after District meeting vote.

Chief will be retiring on August 27th.

Chief's replacement – process was discussed.

Bob will post his frequently asked questions informational letter about increasing staff to social media. Letter was reviewed.

Accountant's Report

Accountant noted that no one had turned in nomination papers for the Prudential Committee.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.