

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
July 5, 2016

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee Member
Richard Kuklewicz, Prudential Committee Member
Bob Escott, Fire Chief
John Zellmann, Deputy Chief (and new Fire Chief)
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
David Thompson, Finance Committee Member
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee Member

Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Minutes of prior meetings – Minutes were approved for the May 31st meeting.

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

New Chief's contract – New Chief John Zellmann's contract will be discussed in executive session.

Military Policy – The District's unwritten policy of paying the difference between our pay and military pay was discussed for military leave. For weekend training, we have been allowing time with full pay. We have no current limit on number of days. Prudential Committee agrees that we need a written policy for the future, but will not affect our current captain who is on military leave until October.

It was noted that the Town of Montague has a policy for payment of two weeks less military pay for this, and U-Mass has a policy of during annual tour of duty not exceeding 17 days, full pay will be received. Time over that is unpaid from both the Town and U-Mass, unless vacation or personal time is used.

Accountant will pay the difference after she has received documentation of military pay. Chief was asked to draft a military leave policy and the Prudential Committee will review and number of days will be decided at the next meeting.

Chief's report – Three new firefighters started July 1st. Two will be starting the Fire Academy in September. The third had previously had gone.

June calls totaled 111; 3 of which were transports.

Call force – we are down to 10 call force members and our members have been called in a lot; 28 times in June. Bob will try to recruit again.

Regional Fire Department study – Gill Selectboard would not sign on to the COG study, as recommended by their Fire Chief. Montague Center and Greenfield are interested and Northfield and Bernardston are no longer interested. We won't know about Erving until later in July. Bob will have a meeting with the Gill Selectboard Chairman, Randy Crochier to explain the COG study.

We collected \$2,800 in ambulance collections in June.

FY2016 budgets were reviewed.

Captain's exam is tomorrow morning. Recommended passing grade is 70. Motion made by Jay to recommend this passing grade. Rich seconded. All in favor. Promotion to Deputy's position will have to wait until Captain Brunelle returns from military leave.

Candidates for Prudential Committee – We now have two candidates that are interested in a Prudential Committee position. Eileen will check with our District Clerk Deb Bourbeau to see what the procedure is.

Finance Committee Member David Thompson made a suggestion that sick time be capped or possibly put into a bank, to reduce unused sick time paid when an employee retires. He suggested that we look into this. Discussion followed.

Accountant's Report

Eileen noted that bi-weekly payroll will be ready to start on July 21st.

A new General Government account for unemployment benefits has been set up. Prudential Committee agrees that this should be in the Gen Govt budget, even though it mainly relates to a former Water Department employee's benefits.

Next meeting Tuesday August 2nd at 5:00 p.m

Went into Executive Session at 6:09 p.m to discuss the new Chief's contract.

No votes taken.

Out of Executive Session at 6.44 p.m and meeting adjourned at that time.