

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
June 6, 2017

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee Member
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
Steven Constantine, Finance Committee Member

Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Minutes of prior meeting – Minutes were approved for the May 1st meeting.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed by the Prudential Committee.

Fire Vehicle Replacement Schedule – Chief handed out a plan for vehicle replacements. It was suggested that we hand this out at the next District Meeting. He is working on updating capital spending worksheet, for items other than vehicle replacements.

Revolving Funds – Chief would like to set up a different type of revolving fund for the ambulance budget and questioned if we could set one up for fire fees. Accountant explained the three types of revolving funds that we are now allowed to utilize, and how fire fees offset our tax rate. Chief will bring details of other fire departments' ambulance revolving funds to our next meeting. Discussion followed about how we could give more information to our voters at our next annual meeting.

FirstLight overlay – Assessors were to meet with FirstLight early June, and expected to release related overlay later in the year. Accountant will contact them for an update.

Run Reports – We had 99 calls, including 55 for EMS, with 10 transports for May. Primary ambulance availability has been an issue. It was suggested that the Chief meet with the Selectboard when he has tracked more information about this issue. Callback should be down some, since staff is being used more wisely during the day shift. No need to open union contract.

Physical Fitness – John presented a fitness program for firefighters. The Fire Chiefs' Association of Mass. is backing business called O2X, which is not only a fitness program, but covers cardiac health, cancer prevention, mental health, etc. Chief mentioned it to the union and they are all for it. John would like to send our guys to this four day program in Springfield. Cost is \$1500 for the program.

Ambulance Expenses allocation – Melanson Heath does not have an allocation template, so an excel spreadsheet would have to be developed allocating which expenses should be allocated, along with % of allocation. It was noted that the ambulance surplus for the current year so far is not very much, so we may have to wait on this.

Health Insurance – Because of rising health insurance costs, our insurance trust asked us to ask permission of our boards to notify our unions of our intent to vote on adopting MGL which allows for changes in health insurance coverage. The executive board of the trust would like to start the process of looking into raising the co-pays and deductibles for our plan. The last few years the trust has lost millions of dollars in our self-insured plan, with the reserves covering the excess claims. Jay made motion to notify our union of such and David seconded. All in favor.

Streetlights – The state is offering a one-time grant program to help municipalities with led conversions. Eileen will check into this.

Executive Session - Went into executive session at 6:35 under G.L. c30A, Sec 21(a)6 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property for Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts Economic Development Incentive Program Consideration. Out of executive session at 6:46 p.m. Votes were taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 27 at 5:00 p.m.