

Minutes of Prudential Committee & Finance Committee Meeting
August 7, 2017

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
John Greene, Prudential Committee Member
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
Allyson Greene, Finance Committee Member
Brian McCarthy, Captain, Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

Minutes were accepted for the June 27th meeting.

Health Insurance changes – Eileen attended the July meeting of the Insurance Trust and noted that changes in co-pays and deductibles, effective FY19 were voted in at the meeting. She did not expect that it would be voted on so soon, with so little written information provided to the units. She handed out information on the Group Insurance Commission plans that would be available to our District, noting that these plans have individual and family deductibles, which we will not have with Blue Cross.

LED streetlights – There is still grant funding from the state available for LED streetlights. The District pays for about 709 streetlights in Turners Falls, Montague City, Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant. The grant is a 30% reimbursement and there is a utility rebate, but we would have to purchase the streetlights first. She is still waiting for numbers from Eversource. It was noted that we have many more streetlights than surrounding towns and we should look into turning some off first. Maintenance of the purchased streetlights would be another issue since the District does not have a highway department.

FY17 Financial Audit – Auditors will be here earlier this year, scheduled for the last week in September.

2004 Ford Taurus – Old Deputy's car was sold to Ralph Rau for \$500, who was the only bidder.

LED lighting is being installed inside of the Fire Department building, including an alerting lighting system for calls.

Call force – down to 11 members and could be down one or two more shortly. Chief thinks we should start discussing possible additions to the permanent force

EMS calls - In June there were 88 calls, of which 53 were EMS, including 16 transports.

In July we had 116 calls, including 72 EMS, of which 18 were transports. The trend of the last few years is showing increases in medical calls and transports. Transports are increasing since MedCare is not able to provide all the primary service to our town.

Boot Drive – The career guys volunteered for a boot drive recently and raised \$2,630 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Tech Rescue – Several from our department helped in the challenging tech rescue call at Bash Bish Falls in Egremont, Mass. It was a sad ending, but a lot of effort was involved in the planning. Letter of appreciation was received by the Fire Department for their efforts.

Three new hires – All three have excelled. Dave made motion to accept the three new hires as permanent firefighters, now off of the probationary period. John Greene seconded. Chief will write the letters to them, notifying them of such.

Call firefighter with injury – This firefighter has been approved by his orthopedic surgeon to return to work as a call firefighter. Chief questioned whether we want to have another opinion. It was decided it was not necessary, that we would follow his physician's advice. He was not injured on duty.

Chief's vehicle – The 2015 Ford Explorer Interceptor has shown some carbon monoxide (26 ppm) inside vehicle. This issue with modified Explorers has been in the news recently. Chief has ordered a carbon monoxide detector for the vehicle.

ISO (Insurance Service Organization) review will be next week, and the Fire Department is getting ready for it. The last time this was done was 2004.

Next meeting on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

