

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

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee
John Greene, Prudential Committee
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
Don Reid, Finance Committee
Allyson Greene, Finance Committee

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

Minutes were accepted for the August 7th meeting.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

LED streetlights update –Eileen read the notice from our Eversource representative, that all of the streetlights in the Town of Montague, including ones not within our District, would have to be purchased from Eversource, if we wish to begin the process of updating to LED lights. Discussion followed. She will try to schedule this representative along with Walter Ramsey, Town Planner, at our next meeting. It was later decided to contact the Montague Energy Group as well.

We also have two new bills for 10 more LED lights installed on Avenue A. The Town had these installed and we were not notified. Accountant has made known to them that we need to be informed before this happens. Discussion also followed about turning off existing streetlights on the Avenue, since not needed with the LED's, and also a few more.

EMS calls - In August there were 105 calls, of which 49 were EMS, including 9 transports.

Testing - Fire will be starting to test the 800 megahertz system. Radio system in county needs updating and we could be in the pilot program to get on a digital system.

MATRIS – Chief found that the MATRIS (Mass. Ambulance Trip Record Information System) can provide information about ambulance calls to our District and Montague Center. This is public information. In the past we tried to obtain this information from MedCare.

ISO rating – The Insurance Service Organization review was done and the Chief expects that our rating will improve significantly with the hiring of new firefighters, working fire agreements with Greenfield and Montague Center, additional fire hydrants, changes in dispatching, etc. We're currently at 4/9. Discussion followed about a higher rating and how it would affect insurance rates in our District in a positive way. It was suggested that the Chief contact our insurance agent for information on this.

Grants - Chief attended an AFG Grant workshop. He was encouraged to apply for this grant for the ladder truck. Discussion followed. We do need a ladder truck because of the heights of our buildings in town. SAFER Grant – This is a manpower grant to hire new firefighters for three years: 75% first year, 75% second year and 35% for third year. Benefits are included. Applications needs to be done October – November.

Baystate Franklin Pharmacy – A meeting is coming up with the Baystate pharmacist and they may be trying to introduce a new policy where participants will be charged \$200 per month to use their pharmacy. Chief has been getting most medications from other vendors, but sometimes still uses Baystate Pharmacy.

Next meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.