

Minutes of Prudential Committee & Finance Committee Meeting
December 3, 2018

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
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee
David Thompson, Finance Committee
Allyson Chabot, Finance Committee
Ken McCance, Yolon Energy

Minutes were approved for the November 5th meeting.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

Streetlights energy contract – Our two-year contract for our energy supplier for streetlights will be expiring in February 2019. Ken McCance, broker from Yolon Energy, presented quotes from four different energy providers for 12, 24 and 36 months. Jay made motion to accept contract for 24 months . John Greene seconded. All in favor. Ken McCance left at this time.

Ambulance Service – AMR (American Medical Response) has purchased MedCare Ambulance and will start taking over on December 16. John has had two meetings with them. They will have to re-negotiate all of their contracts, including one to the Town of Montague and his opinion is that we'll get busier with ambulance calls. It is unknown yet what changes they will be making. MedCare had hoped that a paramedicine service would be allowed in Massachusetts during their stay here as it works in Canada, but it has not happened. AMR may have not wanted the Franklin County area, but it was part of the package. John noted that fly cars are now more common, where an ambulance service will have a car with one paramedic to assist.

Ladder truck update – Chief and salesman will be heading out tomorrow to bring it to our station. There will be 3 days of training for this. Should be in service in about 2 weeks.

Radio system update-There is a need to go public with the problems. We just lost the New Salem tower and e-bay is running out of parts to fix our area's current radio system. The COG is looking into a contract for Kurt Seaman to look into what direction we should go in, possibly the 800 system which will be very expensive.

Old ladder truck – Greenfield's tower truck will be out of service for 3-6 months for repairs and Chief suggested that we loan them our old truck during that time, after our new ladder truck is in service. We will strip our equipment off of it. Prudential Committee agrees.

Run Report – We had 103 calls for November, of which 44 were EMS calls including 13 transports.

Military leave amendment – Prudential Committee signed amendment for time off for evening shift before weekend duty.

Avenue A streetlights – Eversource will have agreement ready shortly for Prudential Committee Chairman to sign to remove overhead streetlights on Avenue A as we agreed. Also it was suggested by our representative that because the remaining 5 lights or so will be over existing LEDs lights they will try to replace those with LEDs. Not sure if it will be approved, as will be a test program.

Health Insurance changes for FY20 will be discussed at the Group Insurance Trust's next meeting in January. A handout was given from the Mass. Municipal Association as a guide on how to handle changes in benefits. We may have to negotiate the savings with our employees.

By-laws – The last draft of our by-laws was as of August 2016. We have examples of a few other fire districts' by-laws and we will structure our draft from those that have already been approved by the state.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Next regular meeting is Monday, January 7 at 5:15 p.m.