

Minutes of Prudential Committee & Finance Committee Meeting
January 7, 2019

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
David Thompson, Finance Committee
Allyson Chabot, Finance Committee
Chris Mason, Montague Energy Committee
Mark Fiske, Montague Center Lighting District
Rebecca Sabelawski, Montague Center Lighting District
David Leh, Montague Center Lighting District

Meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

Minutes were approved for the December 3rd meeting.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

Streetlights – Chris Mason drafted a request for quotes for a study of LED lights for our town. We will all review it, and note any suggested changes. We will reach out to the COG to see if they have suggestions on how to help multiple districts with the wording of the request for quotes and to see if they are ones that can provide an audit. Chris and Montague Center representatives left at this time.

Ambulance update – Since AMR took over MedCare Ambulance as of December 16th, things have not been going well. Our calls numbers are up for medical calls. A suggestion was made by AMR to work up a partnership agreement with Greenfield and Turners Falls with Gfld and TF being the primary basic providers. AMR is having difficulty hiring paramedics and keeping them. South County cannot keep providing paramedic service to entire area, and Northfield is mainly a volunteer system, with few medics. Chief says the system is broken. He feels that AMR will leave the area. He suggests that we partner with AMR for now and work up a staffing plan to provide basic service to our district, with possibly hiring paramedics in the future. We had 1,308 calls for 2018 (16% increase), of which 607 were fire/rescue calls; 697 EMS (11% increase), of which we had 161 transports (20% increase). He will present preliminary figures for our next meeting. He would like to add on two additional firefighters/EMT's for next fiscal year. Too late this year to apply for a SAFER grant for manpower, but we can apply in the future. Discussion followed.

New ladder truck is in full service, after 3 days of training. Old ladder truck is now in Greenfield and being used as a rescue vehicle while their tower truck is being repaired.

New used ambulance – We may be purchasing one of Northampton’s ambulances, when they receive their new one, for approximately \$25,000. This will include a power stretcher, 4 radios and other equipment.

Dispatch services – Chief would like to see 911 calls sent to central Shelburne Control to expedite calls. He would like to send them a letter to request such. Discussion followed.

Communications System Meeting – Chief noted that there is an upcoming meeting on January 31 at Greenfield Community College to discuss our current system and whether we should repair/upgrade current system, or go with the 800 system.

FY20 budgets – Deputy Chief will be retiring in FY20, so will be special article. General government draft budget was reviewed.

FY18 Audited Financial Statements – We have received the draft report. No management letter of comments. We’ll be receiving the hard copies shortly.

Free Cash was certified for \$334,131 for the General Fund, and Ambulance Fund for \$48,611.

By-laws – Copies of various other similar fire districts’ by-laws were distributed. After discussion, Prudential Committee decided to go with the Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills Fire District as a template for our own. We will have a rough template for our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Next regular meeting is Monday, February 4 at 5:15 p.m. (Later rescheduled to Monday February 11 at 5:15 p.m.)