

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
May 26, 2020

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
John Greene, Prudential Committee
Todd O'Brien, Prudential Committee
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
David Thompson, Finance Committee
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee

Meeting was held outside of the District Office and called to order at 6:00 p.m..

Minutes were approved for the April 28 meeting.

District Meeting – It was decided to follow the same format as the Town Meeting and hold our meeting outside at Turners Falls High School in the parking lot adjacent to the football field, to be held at 6:00 p.m. rather than the usual 7:00 p.m. Tent idea was brought up, but we've heard that some of the public does not feel comfortable under a tent and is expensive to rent. Rain date is set for June 18 at 6:00 p.m. Eileen will check with our attorney to see how rain date can be scheduled.

Elections – It was decided to shorten the hours of our District Elections from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. Elections will be outside of our office and absentee ballots will be encouraged also.

Budgets - General Government budget was reviewed. It was decided to reinstate salaries to reflect increase as previously proposed. Union proposed terms for a three -year contract, with the likelihood of opening contract next year. Terms sound reasonable, so Fire budget will be adjusted for this.

LED streetlights – Eversource legal counsel has now decided that our District can purchase just our own streetlights, with a purchase price of \$114,586. Water Dept. will take care of their streetlights in Lake Pleasant. Total project cost will be \$295,000. It was decided to also use \$25,000 from Stabilization for this. We would also need to borrow \$150,000, but we would still be saving more than \$20,000 annually during the 5- year life of the loan, and more afterwards. It was decided to allocate another \$30,000 from overlay surplus for this to reduce the loan amount to \$120,000. Concerns were expressed about Montague Center since we've included them in several of our meetings, and also future maintenance for these lights. An outside meeting will be scheduled next week with the Montague Center folks and George Woodbury on the line.

Other Special Articles were reviewed. It was decided to include them since nothing is requested to be funded from taxation.

Budgets – Motion was made by David Z to accept the budgets with the proposed changes, along with the special articles. All in favor. Finance Committee approved budgets and special articles.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.