



## PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street \* South Hadley, MA 01075  
Tel: (413) 534-5748 \* Fax: (413) 534-5949

### ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES MAY 2, 2011

Just prior to the Annual Meeting, the Prudential Committee voted, (motion by Richard Constant, second by Rob Lak), to offer for all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the start of the meeting. All voted in favor.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator at 7:07 pm as the Clerk informed him that a quorum was present. The Clerk then read the preface of the warrant. All board members introduced themselves to the audience. Kate Bedard of the Water Commissioners was excused.

It is noted here that all articles were moved and seconded, although such is not recorded individually here within the minutes.

Article 1 It was moved that the District vote to hear and act upon the reports of the officers of the District and to give recognitions.

Rob Lak took this time to thank all of the employees for their services to the District. Also noted was the services offered by the firefighters/EMT's/Paramedic.

Article 2 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate, and/or raise from departmental receipts, the sum of \$96,970.00 for the Administrative & Elected Official Salary Account for the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2011 as follows:

The sum of \$48,830.00 to be raised by TAXATION and the sum of \$48,140.00 to be raised by Water Department RECEIPTS.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 3 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate, and/or raise from departmental receipts the sum of \$30,575.00 to be used for the Maintenance of the Headquarters Building as follows: The sum of **\$22,125.00 to be raised by TAXATION**, and the sum of **\$8,450.00 to be raised by Water Department RECEIPTS**.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 4 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600.00 for the Firefighter's Association for their use during the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2011.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Assistant Chief Calkins requested that the Prudential Committee consider increasing this article to \$750.00 in the coming year's budget.

Article 5 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,830.00 for the Printing, Election and other Expenses Account, as follows: The sum of **\$12,330.00 to be raised by TAXATION** and the sum of **\$500.00 to be raised by Water Department RECEIPTS**.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 6 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or raise from departmental receipts, the sum of \$6,000.00 to be paid for an annual audit of the accounts of the District and its officers as follows:

The sum of **\$3,000.00 to be raised by TAXATION** and the sum of **\$3,000.00 to be raised by Water Department RECEIPTS**.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 7 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from departmental receipts, the sum of \$141,055.00 for the Prudential Committee Insurance Account for the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2011 as follows:

The sum of **\$132,055.00 to be raised by TAXATION**, and the sum of **\$9,000.00 to be raised by Water department RECEIPTS**.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Linda Young strongly encouraged the Prudential Committee to look at the ratios of 75/25 insurance contributions for the future. John Scibak spoke to this idea stating that as municipal workers, the wage standards are typically lower than the outside work force, therefore the insurance percentage contributions are higher for municipal employees. The majority of surrounding towns contribute at similar ratios. He also brought the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) liability to the attention of the voters.

Article 8 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,423.00 to defray the expense of the Tax Collectors and Assessors of the towns of South Hadley, and Granby, incurred through the collection of taxes for the Fire District #2.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

At this time, Peter Gagne spoke about the residents in Granby who pay double taxes for fire services. This was addressed by Rob Lak, Chief Keefe and John Scibak. The people of Granby need to attend a Prudential Committee meeting and address their concerns. R. Lak stated that the PC has spoken with Granby Selectmen concerning this issue and that it is in their hands at this point.

Article 9 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from departmental receipts, the sum of \$140,210.00 to be paid by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer Custodian of the Hampshire County Retirement System as follows: The sum of \$97,807.00 to be raised by TAXATION, and the sum of \$42,403.00 to be raised by Water Department RECEIPTS.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 10 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate from FREE CASH, the sum of \$10,000.00 to be used as the Reserve Fund account.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 11 It was moved that the District vote to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow in anticipation of the revenue for the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2011, in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and acts in amendment thereof, and including in addition thereto, Chapter 849 of the Acts of 1969, as amended, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 12 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate by transfer from the District Stabilization Fund, the sum \$40,000.00 to be used for District Capital Improvements.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote  
(2/3 was required and met)

Article 13 No motion at this time.

Article 14 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer the sum of \$40,000.00 to be used for the purchase of Fire Department equipment as

follows: The sum of \$10,000.00 to be raised by TAXATION, and the sum of \$30,000.00 to be transferred from the interest in the Real Estate Stabilization Fund.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

(2/3 was required and met)

Article 15 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Maintenance of Fire Apparatus and Equipment.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 16 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$562,365.00 to pay Firefighters for time spent firefighting, at drills and other duties, and for leave with pay to incapacitated Officers and Firefighters as authorized by Chapter 41, Section 111-F of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Linda Young motioned to amend the article to read \$562,365.00, as follows: \$532,365.00 by TAXATION and \$30,000.00 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, a second was made.

R. Lak spoke to point out that the idea of not using Ambulance reserves is to let that account build for a few years before dipping into it.

L. Young stated that she doesn't see consistence in how the monies are being used. Chief Keefe stated that we are again using some ambulance revenues to defray the article 16 expense, only this year he's done that by moving line items over to the ambulance budget.

Vote on amendment: Nay's have it

L. Young requests a vote by count. Result: 27 Ayes, 10 Nays, Motion to amend fails. There was then a motion by an unknown resident to appropriate the sum of \$562,365.00 as follows: \$549,365.00 by TAXATION, and the sum of \$13,000.00 by Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation. A second was made.

Vote on the amendment: 17 Ayes, 21 Nays, Motion fails.

The vote was then taken on the original article.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 17 It was moved that the district vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,940.00 to be used as the Fire Chief's Expense Account.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 18 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,170.00 for the Operational Expenses incurred by the Fire Department.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 19 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from FREE CASH, the sum of \$18,100.00 to be used for the purchase, expansion and maintenance of the Fire Alarm and Communications System of the Fire Department as follows: the sum of \$9,900.00 to be raised by TAXATION and the sum of \$8,200.00 to be transferred from District FREE CASH.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 20 No motion at this time.

Article 21 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate from Water Department receipts, the sum of \$140,385.00 to be used for Water Department Maintenance.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 22 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate from Water Department receipts, the sum of \$219,390.00 to be used for Water Department Payroll.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 23 No motion at this time.

Article 24 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate from Water Department receipts, the sum of \$10,000.00 for Consulting Services.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 25 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate from Water Department receipts, the sum of 86,526.00 to be used for the Water Department Insurance Account.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 26 No motion at this time.

Article 27 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate \$500.00 from District FREE CASH, to be used for Professional Fees.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 28 It was moved that the District vote to authorize the Prudential Committee to defend all suits that may be brought against the district during the Fiscal Year 2012 and to prosecute all suits on behalf of the District, to engage counsel for same, and to settle such suits as they deem advisable.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 29 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of **\$20,000.00 from District FREE CASH** to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle Stabilization Fund.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 30 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate from **District FREE CASH, the sum of \$119,100.00** for the payment of principle and interest on the portion of bond that is for the Building Debt.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 31 It was moved that the District vote to allow the Prudential Committee or the Water Commissioners, or the Fire Chief, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to apply for, accept, and expend any state or federal grants that may come available for Fiscal 2012 and/or to accept any gifts given to the District, and to do so vote to transfer from the District STABILIZATION FUND the sum of \$5,000.00.

A motion was made by John Scibak to increase the dollar amount to \$25,000.00 from District Stabilization Fund. Motion was seconded.

Vote on the amendment: Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.  
(2/3 was required and met)

Original motion voided.

Article 32 It was moved that the District vote to authorize the Prudential Committee to sell and dispose of any surplus personal property belonging to the Fire District.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 33 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the Stabilization Fund.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 34 No motion at this time.

Article 35 It was moved that the District vote to transfer and appropriate **from Water Department Surplus, the sum of \$68,350.00** for the payment of principle and interest on the portion of the Bond that is for Capital Improvements.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 36 It was moved that the District vote to transfer and appropriate from **WATER DEPARTMENT SURPLUS the sum of \$10,000.00** to be added to the Water Department Vehicle Stabilization Fund

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 37 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate by transfer from the **WATER DEPARTMENT VEHICLE STABILIZATION FUND, the sum of \$10,000.00** for the purpose of purchasing a dump body for a water department vehicle.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 38 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate by departmental receipts, the sum of \$26,526.00 to be added to the Water Storage Stabilization Fund.

At this time an amendment was made by Mark Aiken to allow for an adjustment to the fees charged and added to the Water Systems Improvement Stabilization Fund. No second was made. It was noted that this amendment may not be legal as the original amount charged was by vote of the District and would need its own article. Amendment was withdrawn.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 39 No motion at this time.



Article 40 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate by transfer from the **Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account, the sum of \$162,463.00** for the Fiscal Year 2012 ambulance budget.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 41 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate by transfer from the **Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account, the sum of \$40,000.00** to be used as the first years payment for the purchase and equipping of a new ambulance by authorizing the Treasurer to borrow under MGL Chapter 44, section 7 or 8, or to enter into a lease for the same, for a sum not exceed \$170,000.00.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Articles being complete, the Prudential Committee addressed some concerns voiced earlier in the meeting.

-  R. Lak spoke about the 2<sup>nd</sup> well property, Edward Alford's property. The acquisition of that property is still on hold. The Connecticut Watershed has stipulations that currently are not in agreement with the Alford's requests.
-  Ed Dayall inquired if/when the abandoned property on route 116 will attempt to be sold. It was noted that the old wells and filtration building

had been knocked down and filled in. The only remaining structure is the brick building.

- ✿ As for questions regarding the status of the annexation of the northern end of the town into the District, Chief Keefe stated that the Town has an article on its warrant for this coming Town Meeting to give authorization for the property to be annexed into District #2. Once/if voted on it will be given to the legislature for approval.
- ✿ Ed Dayall asked for an explanation of the Fire Wardens position. The town did appoint a fire warden, but with the District's Fire Chief's being Deputy Fire Wardens, and as such would be issuing fire burning permits in each District.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Selkirk