



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street * South Hadley, MA 01075
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ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES MAY 5, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator at 7:02 pm as the Clerk informed him that a quorum was present. (40) The Clerk then read the preface of the warrant. All board members introduced themselves to the audience.

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.

Prudential Committee Chair, Robert Lak thanked all the District personnel and fellow board members for their service to the District along with all the firefighters who give their service to our residents.

Chairman of the Water Commissioners, Frank DeToma took a moment to remember both Jack Cleary and Harry Crossland, past water superintendents for their service to the District. They both passed last year.

Motion accepted with a unanimous vote

Article 2 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate, and/or raise from departmental receipts, the sum of \$77,086.00 for the Elected and Appointed Official Salary Account for the Treasurer/Clerk, for the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2014 as follows: The sum of **\$38,543.00 to be raised by TAXATION** and the sum of **\$38,543.00 to be raised by Water Department RECEIPTS**.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Noted that this item allows for a three month training period for the appointee for the Clerk/Treasurer position.

Article 3 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$18,100.00 to be used for the Maintenance and Other Expenses of the Headquarters Building as follows: The sum of **\$18,100.00 to be raised by TAXATION**.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 4 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for the District Capital Expenditures of the Prudential Committee as follows: the sum of \$2,000.00 to be raised by TAXATION.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

There is a door to be replaced in the fire department radio room and offices to be painted.

Article 5 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or from Departmental Receipts, the sum of \$2,000.00 to be added to the OPEB Stabilization Fund as follows: The sum of \$1,000.00 to be raised by TAXATION, and the sum of \$1,000.00 to be raised from 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 transfer from available funds, the sum of \$30,400.00 for the District Operational Services account as follows: the sum of \$20,400.00 to be raised by TAXATION, and the sum of \$10,000.00 to be used from the District STABILIZATION FUND.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

(Needed a 2/3 vote)

The Prudential Committee is again funding Legal Fees by \$10,000 as the legal process with the Town of Granby is not yet resolved.

Article 7 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate sum of \$130,050.00 for the District Insurance Account for the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2014 as follows: The sum of \$130,050.00 to be raised by TAXATION.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Again this year the cost of health insurance did not increase from the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust. We did however move the District cost for health insurance for all employees of the fire department into this account. Previously one employee was listed in the fire budget. There is also a sum of money to cover the benefits for the trainee/new employee for the clerk/Treasurer position.

Article 8 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$6,865.00 to defray the expenses 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 and a sum of money for supplies used in those assessments and collections as follows:

The sum of \$6,865.00 to be raised by TAXATION.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 9 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from departmental receipts, the sum of \$196,249.00 to be paid by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer Custodian of the Hampshire County Retirement System as follows: The

sum of \$132,375.67 to be raised by TAXATION, and the sum of \$63,873.33 to be raised by Water department RECEIPTS.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 10 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000.00 to be used as the Reserve Fund Account as follows: The sum of \$12,000.00 to be raised by TAXATION.

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, 2014, 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 raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,300.00 to be used for the Fire Prevention & Associated Expenses Reserved for Appropriation Account as follows: The sum of \$7,800.00 from accumulated receipts and the sum of \$8,500.00 to be transferred from AMBULANCE Receipts Reserved for Appropriations

Motion passed with a majority vote.

A long period of time was spent on this article. Comments were raised as to the flexibility of use of these funds, should they or should they not be paying for portions of wages to fire personnel working in fire prevention, how will this account grow. One resident stated that as this account is funded by permit fees, the college is not paying for services they are using.

Article 13 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$734,647.00 to be used for the Operations of the Fire Department to include paying 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 as follows: the sum of \$729,647.00 to be raised by TAXATION, and the sum of \$5,000.00 to be transferred from the District STABILIZATION FUND.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

(needed a 2/3 vote)

Once again the entire fire department budget is shown in one article. The payroll reflects a 2% increase, as do all payroll articles this year. The cost for health, dental, life insurance has been moved to the District insurance article as mentioned above.

Article 14 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from Departmental receipts, the sum of \$565,034.00 for the Operations of the Water Department to include insurances and wages as follows: The sum of \$560,034.00 to be raised by WATER DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS, and the sum of \$5,000.00 to be transferred from WATER DEPARTMENT SURPLUS REVENUE.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

This is again an entire budget for the water department. Payroll also has the 2% increase with a step increase for one of the employees. The water department continues to share in various expenses for the utilities along with the Prudential Committee.

Article 15 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate by transfer from the Water Systems Improvement Stabilization Fund, the sum of \$95,000.00 to be used for Water Systems Capital Improvements

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.
(a 2/3 vote needed)

Article 16 It was moved that the District vote to accept **MA General Law chapter 40, Section 22f**. This law allows the fire department to determine and set its fees for certain inspections and permits.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 17 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 2015 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 18 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate to the Fire Department Vehicle Stabilization Fund, the sum of \$5,000.00 by transfer from the AMBULANCE Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

With the near future expected replacement of at least one of the current engines, it is felt that we need to continue to fund this account for that impending purchase.

Article 19 No action was taken on the original motion for Article 19 as an amendment was taken and subsequently voted on

AMENDMENT

Article 19 I move that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, and/or from departmental receipts, the sum of \$109,650.00 for the

payment of principle and interest on the District portion of bond that is for the Building Debt as follows:

The sum of \$9,650.00 to be transferred from AMBULANCE Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, the sum of \$50,000.00 to be transferred from Water Department Receipts, and the sum of \$50,000.00 to be used from District FREE CASH.

Motion passed with a majority vote (6-8 voted nay)

As the Prudential Committee and the Water Commissioners did not agree on this article, they opted to let the people vote for their choice. The PC felt strongly that since a large sum of money, \$300,000 from the acquired land monies, had been used towards painting the water tank, and since this money was planned to be used towards building bond costs, some assistance from the water department for this year's payment would be greatly appreciated. The water department cannot be asked to pay rent, but they are allowed to help with indirect costs associated with the building.

This is our 8th payment on the 20 year bond.

Article 20 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 2015 and/or to accept any gifts given to the District

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 21 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 22 No motion at this time.

Article 23 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate by transfer from WATER DEPARTMENT SURPLUS, the sum of \$63,310.00 for payment of principal and interest for the Water Department Capital Expense debt.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

This is the 8th payment on the 20 year bond. These monies are derived from the rental of space on the water towers for antennas.

Article 24 No motion at this time

Article 25 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate from departmental receipts and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to the Water Storage Stabilization Fund as follows: the sum of \$15,000.00 to be

raised by Water Department RECEIPTS, and the sum of \$25,000.00 to be transferred from WATER DEPARTMENT SURPLUS.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 26 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account, the sum of \$36,462.50 for the purpose of payment of principal and interest on the bond for new ambulance purchase.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

This is the 4th year payment on a five year bond for the purchase of the new ambulance.

Article 27 It was moved that the District vote to appropriate by transfer from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account, the sum of \$287,363.00 to be used for the operations of the District #2 Ambulance Service for the Fiscal Year 2015.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 28 It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 to be used to fund the CAPITAL EXPENSE/purchase of new protective gear for the firefighters. The sum of \$60,000.00 to be raised by TAXATION.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Article 29 It was moved that the District vote to ACCEPT MA General Law Chapter 32, Section 85h. This allows the Prudential Committee to qualify a call firefighter as “retired” for the purpose of disability retirement should they be permanently disabled during their service to the District.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm
Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Selkirk