



SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2

20 Woodbridge Street * South Hadley, MA 01075

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PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator at 7:00 pm as the Clerk had informed him that a quorum was present. (76) 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 these 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 Member, Richard Constant, recognized the retirement of Sandra Selkirk, praising her thirty years of dedication to the District. All District personnel and board members were thanked for their service to the District.

Kevin McAffrey from Mount Holyoke College (MHC) was introduced and he thanked South Hadley Fire District No. 2 for keeping the two thousand students at MHC safe as well as all the residents of the District.

Fire Chief, David Keefe asked William Selkirk to speak in remembrance of Robert Scott who had served as an on-call fire fighter for 25 years; sadly he passed away in April of this year.

Chief Keefe commended William Selkirk for his 37 years of service to the District and presented him with his Chief's Helmet.

Motion accepted with a unanimous vote.

Motion by Peter Jesionowski to change the order of the Articles and move Articles 31 and 32 before Article 2. The motion was seconded.

Motion accepted with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 31

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, and/or authorize the District Treasurer with the approval of the Prudential Committee to appropriate and borrow in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(9), the sum of \$503,000, to pay a portion of the costs of purchasing and equipping a new fire engine, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto and further to authorize the transfer of the sum of \$300,000, from Fire Department Capital Replacement Stabilization Fund for the purchase of said vehicle. The sum of \$300,000 to be transferred from the Fire Department Capital Replacement Stabilization Fund.

2/3 MAJORITY REQUIRED

Kenneth McKenna informed the meeting attendees that the Prudential Committee (PC) worked with Mount Holyoke College's President, Lynn Pasqueralla, Director of Government and

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Community Relations, Kevin McAffery and Vice President for Finance and Administration/Treasurer, Shannon Gurek and have secured a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) in which the college committed to paying \$20,000 each year for 20 years as payment of one half of the cost of the new Quint. K. McKenna further stated that the Quint is a multiple function fire truck which includes a 107 foot ladder and pump and is manufactured by Pierce. He stated that the original quotes had come in as high as \$900,000 but that the Chief had negotiated the price down to \$803,000. Mr. McKenna stated that the Treasurer, Barbara Miller would address any financing questions and Chief Keefe would provide answers to questions relating to the vehicle.

B. Miller stated that the total cost of the truck is expected to be \$803,000 with \$300,000 coming from the Fire Dept Capital Replacement Stabilization Account and a bond for \$503,000. The District is working with Rural Development a division of the US Dept of Agriculture for a 20 year low interest loan. It has been confirmed that the District qualifies for the program; the interest rates are currently 3.125%. The annual payments range from \$36,500 to 32,000 annually and MHC has committed to paying \$20,000 per year for 20 years. The plan for the remainder of the payment is that the annual transfer from free cash to the FD Capital Replacement Stabilization Account will be reduced from \$40,000 to approximately \$25,000 and the remaining \$15,000 +/- will make the bond payment.

John Broderick asked if there is a contract with MHC. K. McKenna stated that there is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU). J. Broderick asked if the college could back out of the agreement. K. McKenna stated that the MOU is not a binding contract but the college has a long history of abiding by previous MOUs; they have never cut back on promises to the District. J. Broderick asked if the building had the capacity to house the larger truck. R. Constant stated that the load capacity of the floor had been confirmed in writing by an engineer. P. Jesionowski questioned the strength of the MOU and asked how much as a community do we need another truck. The cost for District 1 to maintain their ladder is hard on the budget and we are surrounded by ladder trucks. R. Constant stated that the District 1 ladder is 75 feet. The one we plan to purchase is 107 feet. District 1's ladder will not reach the necessary height for all of our buildings and calling a ladder in from surrounding communities takes time. Chief Keefe stated that surrounding communities have ladder trucks because they understand they have to take care of themselves just as we are responsible for ourselves. District 1's platform truck has, at times, been out of service. We must be responsible for ourselves. District 2 has not purchased a truck since he came to work for the District. The biggest reason for purchasing this truck is to ensure the safety of the fire fighters. With the advancement of metal roofs it has become more difficult to work on the roof of buildings, with this truck we will know the fire fighters are working from a sturdy vehicle.

Patricia Kraske asked if the MOU had been reviewed by an attorney. K. McKenna indicated that it had been reviewed by District Counsel.

Mark Derosier stated that we treat District 1 as another community. He would like to see a three party agreement; he recommends we get together with District 1. K. McKenna responded that we all agree we would like to have one district. He further stated that a few years ago District 2 voted unanimously to merge with District 1 but District 1 voted against a merger. He stated that he hopes with a new Prudential Committee member in District 1, there might be more cooperation between the two districts.

Joseph Dayall asked if someone could address any delays that might occur while negotiating with District 1; is there concern that we might not have adequate protection. K. McKenna stated that there will remain to be adequate protection throughout the process.

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Marie Rohan stated that she does not object to the purchase of the fire truck but wished to know why, if there was the possibility of grant monies to merge the libraries, why we can't get together on the fire districts.

P. Jesionowski stated that a new ambulance and other vehicles had been discussed at the January meeting. K. McKenna stated that the R6 vehicle recently received \$2,000 in repairs, the ambulance bond will be paid in full by the end of this fiscal year and with-in the next three years we will have to look at purchasing an ambulance to be paid from Stabilization. Chief Keefe stated that what Peter is referring to is the meeting of the PC as the Finance Board in which he brought all of the departments needs to their attention. The PC often has to say no to his requests and then discuss what can be done. K. McKenna stated that the Capital Replacement account currently has over \$457,000 and we will be voting to add an additional \$40,000 to it. We plan to use \$300,000 for the fire truck which will leave very close to \$200,000 in the account.

Michael Fisher stated that he was not sure what the costs were. Cost to purchase, cost to equip and cost to finance. B. Miller addressed his questions stating that the cost to purchase and equip the vehicle was \$803,000. The cost of financing ranges from \$121,000 to \$230,000 depending upon how much is taken from Stabilization and the length of the term. The option felt to be the most advantageous is a twenty year term with \$300,000 down using level debt bond this would cost \$133,375 in interest over the length of the loan and the annual payments would range from \$32,000 to \$36,500 and MHC is committed to paying \$20,000 toward each of those payments. As stated earlier, the remainder of the payment is intended to come from the reduction in the amount paid into the Capital Replacement Stabilization Account. Chief Keefe clarified that two vehicles will eventually be retired and all the equipment from the pumper will be going into the new truck. M. Fisher asked if we would be receiving money for the old truck. Chief Keefe responded that once we order and receive the new truck we will be considering rehabbing the second truck and may need to keep the truck which is being replaced as the second while that rehab is taking place. Once that is complete we will look into the possibility of selling the old truck. M. Fisher asked if a collective report was available with District 1 and District 2 equipment listed. Chief Keefe responded that in the eleven years he has been with the District numerous attempts have been made to combine efforts between District 1 and District 2 but District 1 is not cooperative.

Doug Boudreau asked if the building can handle the new fire truck. Chief Keefe informed him that he held a letter from an engineer which stated that the building structure was sufficient to handle the larger vehicle.

Karen Jesionowski questioned the wording which stated greater than or less than on the warrant. B. Miller stated that the wording of the warrant includes that terminology as a matter of common practice to ensure that at the time of the meeting numbers which may not have been finalized in time for the warrant to be posted and/or changes made at the meeting would not cause the warrant to be invalid. But that it is necessary to listen to the motion as presented because that contains exact numbers.

K. Jesionowski also asked if we were saying that District 1's ladder isn't safe. Chief Keefe stated that we were absolutely not saying that but their truck is older and sometimes is down for repairs.

Ira Brezinsky stated that before this vote is taken he would like to know the balances in these accounts. B. Miller responded that the District Free Cash this year was \$138,841 with \$100,700 proposed to be used within this budget. The FD Capital Replacement Fund has \$457,410 with \$40,000 to be added to it in this warrant and the proposed \$300,000 to be used toward the new

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fire truck. The regular District Stabilization Fund, which is generally thought of as the building stabilization fund, has \$37,053.

Moderator asked for a vote on the motion. The voice vote was not definitive and the moderator asked for a show of hands. The moderator assigned William Selkirk and Michael Rosner to perform the count:

In Favor = 42 Opposed = 29

Motion failed to achieve the required 2/3 majority.

ARTICLE 32

It was moved that the District vote to amend the By-Laws Article II, Section 4, by striking out the word "Forty" and inserting in its place "twenty five", to read as follows:

ARTICLE II, SECTION 4. Twenty five voters shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the District. Election of officers shall not be considered a meeting for the purposes of this section.

P. Jesionowski stated that when the quorum was at 20 in the past, the meeting would consist of all firemen. Someone put forward a quorum of 50 then a few years later it was reduced to 40. Why do we want to reduce it down to 25? B. Miller stated that if everyone that was at the meeting this evening would commit to attending each and every meeting in the future, even when there isn't a fire truck on the warrant, she would ask for a no vote on the motion. But in the past it has been difficult to get a quorum. R. Lak stated that there have been many meetings when everyone had to pull out their cell phones and start calling friends and relatives to get them to come to the meeting so we could have a quorum which delayed the start of the meeting. It was asked if we would consider instituting the informational meetings as were held in the past. B. Miller stated that in her personal opinion informational meetings were not necessarily a good idea. She stated that informational meetings in advance of the Annual District Meeting created a need for people to attend two meetings and that some would choose to attend only one. Those that chose the informational meeting if content with the proposed articles may choose not to attend the actual meeting and others that chose to attend only the Annual District Meeting may be less informed as they had not received the benefit of others questions. It was also asked if more information could be made available in advance of the meeting. B. Miller stated that the warrant was posted at the Post Office, Gagne's store and at the Fire Station. It was also posted on the Fire District and the Town websites. If anyone has questions she would be happy to review every article on the warrant. All anyone needed to do was call her. She stated that signs had been posted a week in advance of the meeting and additional signs were put out the morning of the meeting with bright red letters stating that the meeting was tonight. She continued by saying that there was only so much the District could do to inform the public and they could not be spoon fed the information, it is the responsibility of the residents to do their due diligence to look for the information that has been presented for them.

Scott Brady stated that there are informational meetings each and every month. They are called the Prudential Committee and Water Commissioners monthly meetings. If people really want to know the full picture they should attend all of those meetings rather than just one or two at the time of the budget.

Motion failed to achieve a majority vote.

ARTICLE 2

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds and/or from departmental receipts, a sum of money for the Appointed Treasurer/Clerk Account,

for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2016. The sum of \$35,187 to be raised by taxation and the sum of \$35,187 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, the sum of \$19,225.00 to be used for the Maintenance and Other Expenses of the Headquarters Building. The sum of \$18,525 to be raised by taxation and the sum of \$700 to be used from free cash.

Linda Young asked why the Ambulance receipts were not paying a portion of the expenses. K. McKenna stated that we look at Fire and Ambulance as one; it's one group of people doing two jobs and \$85,000 comes from Ambulance to pay the dispatchers who serve both fire and ambulance. L. Young stated that when ambulance began it was to be self-supporting and it seems they should pay their fair share. R. Constant stated that the ambulance service is part of the fire department. The decision to split the cost of the building is not based on the number of departments, it is based on the use of the space. R. Lak stated that in regards to ambulance being self-supporting, the intent was that if we have an ambulance it would support itself at the time we weren't splitting the costs.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 4

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$2,000 to be used for the CPR and Associated Expenses Reserved for Appropriation Account from Accumulated Receipts. The sum of \$2,000 to be used from Accumulated Receipts.

R. Constant stated that this article is similar to that of the Fire Prevention article in which receipts of the prior year are used to fund the expenses in the coming fiscal year. Chief Keefe stated that part of the mission of the Fire and Ambulance is to teach community CPR. We do instruction to outside groups and charge a small fee to cover expenses.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 5

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from Departmental Receipts the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the OPEB Stabilization Fund as follows: the sum of \$2,500 to be raised by taxation, and the sum of \$2,500 to be transferred from Water Department receipts.

B. Miller stated that the OPEB,(Other Post-Employment Benefits) account will be a means of providing for benefits to retirees in the future. We are mandated by the Government Accounting Standards Board, under GASB 45, to account for our accrued liability for future benefits other than pension. These benefits include, but are not limited to health, dental and life insurance. We will be performing an actuarial study in the future to determine the amount of that liability and track it going forward.

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 \$19,650 for the District Operational Services account as follows: the sum of \$14,650 to be raised by taxation, and the sum of \$5,000 to be used from free cash.

R. Lak stated that this is a 15% reduction from last year due to the Water Dept.'s paying half of the staffing for Elections and advertising for the Election and Annual District Meeting.

A question was posed as to the usefulness of providing the prior year budget amount rather than the actual amounts used to determine the future need. B. Miller stated that this year she used the existing format but that she intended next year to provide prior year actual and current year to date as well as the requested amount.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 7

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$152,080 for the District Insurance Account for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2016. The sum of \$152,080 to be raised by taxation.

R. Constant stated the the cost of Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust health insurance has increased 6.6%. This increase was offset somewhat by the property insurance cost being split with the Water Department and two of the retirees' health insurance being split with the Water Department.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 8

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$7,206 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 \$7,206 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 \$227,485 to be paid by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer Custodian of the Hampshire County Retirement System as follows: the sum of \$145,909 to be raised by taxation, and the sum of \$81,576 to be raised by Water Department receipts.

B. Miller stated that the assessment came in 21% higher this year and is based on aggregate salaries which were affected, in part, by the 53rd pay week in FY2016. We will take advantage of a nearly 2% savings by making one payment in July. And noted also that once fully funded, approximately in the year 2030, our contributions will be greatly reduced.

L. Young questioned the wording of the article and asked if it should read transferred from Water Department Receipts rather than the current wording. B. Miller stated that the motions had been reviewed by District Counsel earlier in the day and though he mentioned that he would prefer alternate wording this wording was legal and would suffice for the meeting. The wording will be reviewed prior to the next District meeting.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 10

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000.00 to be used as the Reserve Fund account. The sum of \$14,000.00 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, 2016, 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

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note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

R. Lak stated that this is a housekeeping article allowing the District to borrow in anticipation of revenue without a special district meeting.

A question was raised to clarify the meaning of this motion. B. Miller stated that the budget is set and then taxes are assessed based on valuation times the tax rate and the taxes are paid quarterly. This motion allows the borrowing of money, if necessary, to pay bills which may be due in advance of the collection of the full year's taxes.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 12

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$19,500 to be used for the Fire Prevention & Associated Expenses Reserved for Appropriation Account. The sum of \$19,500 to be used from Accumulated Receipts.

A question was raised as to the 20% increase from last year. Chief Keefe stated that together with District 1 they had applied for a grant and the increase of 3,000 to the article this year is due to the funding to be received from the Safe Grant monies. A question was raised asking if any of this was due to our becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. Chief Keefe responded that yes some of the work for the Safe Grant Monies will be to assist in that area.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 13

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$713,807 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. The sum of \$713,807 to be raised by taxation.

L. Young questioned the mention of monies to pay incapacitated fire fighters and whether this was for full time or part time people. Chief stated that both are covered and we have insurance which covers us in this regard. L. Young stated that she would like to discuss this further with the Chief at a later time as she would like additional information.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 14

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds and/or from departmental receipts, the sum of \$613,266 for the operations of the Water Department to include insurances and wages. The sum of \$603,266 to be raised by Water Department Receipts and by transfer from Water Department Surplus the sum of \$10,000.

Donna Russell stated that the payroll includes the 1% wage increase. The Water Department increased its contributions towards building expenses by including half the cost of property insurance and maintenance costs of the building.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 15 Fiscal Year 2016 Request

It was moved that the District vote to transfer the sum of \$116,940.33 from the Water Department Capital Receipt Revenue into the Water Systems Improvement Stabilization Fund. (This amount of money shall be the receipts received from July 1, 2015 through and including April 30, 2016).

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

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D. Russell states that these are the receipts from the Capital Improvement charges on the water bills. B. Miller explained that any funds going into or out of a stabilization account must be voted at a District meeting therefore these receipts will be voted each year at the Annual District Meeting.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 16 Fiscal Year 2016 Request

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate by transfer from the Water Systems Improvement Stabilization Fund, the sum of \$75,000.00 to be used for Water Systems Capital Improvement Woodbridge Street Project.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

D. Russell explained that 35 services will be connected to a 12" pipe which was installed in 1990 to replace the existing 6" pipe. In 1990 not all services were switched to the new pipe.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 17 Fiscal Year 2016 Request

It was moved that the District vote to transfer the unspent balance in the Water Systems Capital Improvement East Street Project Account into the Water Systems Capital Improvement Woodbridge Street Project Account. The sum of \$12,762.16 from Water Systems Capital Improvement East Street Project Account.

Kate Bedard explained that these were left over funds from the prior year's project.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 18

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the Fire Department Capital Replacement Stabilization Fund. The sum of \$40,000 to be used from free cash.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

R. Constant stated that this is the account intended primarily for vehicle purchases.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 19

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, and/or from departmental receipts, the sum of \$103,350.00 for the payment of principle and interest on the District portion of bond that is for the Building Debt as follows: the sum of \$3,350 to be raised by taxation, the sum of \$50,000 to be transferred from Water Department Receipts, and the sum of \$50,000 to be used from free cash.

R. Lak stated that this is the 10th payment on the 20-year bond.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

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 2017 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.

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ARTICLE 22

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the District Stabilization Fund. The sum of \$5,000.00 to be used from free cash.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

R. Lak stated that this Stabilization Fund is a non-specific savings for future use of the District as may be presented by the Prudential Committee. It does take a 2/3 vote to use these funds for expenditure.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 23

It was moved that the District vote to appropriate by transfer from Water Department Surplus, the sum of \$59,950 for the payment of principle and interest for the Water Department Capital Expense debt.

D. Russell stated that this is the 9th payment on the 20-year bond. These monies are derived from the rental of space on the water towers for antennas.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 24 Fiscal Year 2016 Request

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$100,000 to pay the costs of purchasing and equipping two new vehicles for the Water Department, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. The sum of \$100,000 to be transferred from the Water Department Vehicle Stabilization Fund.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

K. Bedard explained that the Water Department wishes to replace a 2003 dump truck and a 2004 Ranger pickup. These vehicles have had \$9,000 in repairs. The Water Department employees are performing more work in-house and need reliable vehicles.

Chief Keefe stated that he would like to express his support for the purchase of these vehicles.

Mark Aiken states that they intend to equip the pickup with a sander, they currently spread sand from the bed of the pickup with a shovel.

Rudolf Ternbach asked if any not for profit would be willing to assist in the cost of purchasing these vehicles. D. Russell states that not for profits do not get any break on the cost of water. In fact, non-profit organizations are charged the higher commercial rate.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

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 \$15,000.00 to be added to the Water Storage Tank Stabilization Fund. The sum of \$15,000.00 to be raised by Water Departmental Receipts.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 26

It was moved that the District vote to establish a stabilization fund to be known as the Water Department Building Stabilization Fund pursuant to MGL Chapt. 40 Sec. 5B and further vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, and/or departmental receipts the sum of

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\$5,000 to be added to the Water Department Building Stabilization Fund. The sum of \$5,000.00 to be raised by Water Departmental Receipts.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

K. Bedard stated the purpose of the Water Department Building Stabilization Fund is to create a fund which can be used for the Water Department portion of future capital improvements and/or repairs to the South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Building and/or grounds. L. Young asked for clarification as to the need for this account. D. Russell stated that since the Water Department has started splitting costs with the PC for building related expenses there have been instances when they have had to scramble to find the funds necessary. K. Bedard added that the parking lot repairs was a good example. B. Miller stated that the creation of this account had been at her suggestion. The PC has a similar account with \$37,000 in it and she recommended that the Water Department have a ten- year plan to build up an account to at least \$50,000 the PC will do the same with their account. This type of savings is sometimes referred to as Reserves for Replacement the purpose of which is to provide for replacement or repairs necessary during the life of a building.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 27

It was moved that the District vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 200A, Section 9A, permitting the Treasurer to print a one-year expiration date on all payroll and accounts payable checks.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 28

It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$233,766 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriations for the operations of the District #2 Ambulance Service.

P. Jesionowski asked how the District is currently doing? Chief Keefe stated that we are doing very well. The average income per ambulance call is \$500 to \$700. P. Jesionowski asked what the collection rate is? Chief Keefe responded that the collection rate averages at %75 with a low of 61% up to as much as %85 to 90%. This is a result of the demographics of the area, the population is fairly well insured.

L. Young stated that at the last PC meeting there was a discussion regarding charges which hadn't been billed. Chief Keefe stated that there are two sources for the concern expressed at that meeting. He provided a brief summary of the billing process through Comstar (our ambulance billing company) and explained that during the past eight months there had been some accounts which had not been billed due to human error at Comstar. He further explained that K. McKenna and B. Miller picked up on the reduction in receipts and brought it to the Chief's attention. He contacted Comstar who quickly acknowledged the error. Safeguards are being put in place to prevent this from occurring in the future. The other source of the concern expressed at that PC meeting is that the MHC students come from all over the world, some pay and some do not. MHC helps us with collection of those unpaid bills.

L. Young questioned the significant reduction in lines 5104 and 5106. Chief Keefe explained that those two lines were reduced to account for the reduced ambulance collections to date. He stated that we hope to get thru the next year with Fire Department and Ambulance budgets but if necessary we will hold a Special District Meeting to transfer additional funds after they have been collected.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

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ARTICLE 29

It was moved that the District vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from departmental receipts the sum of \$6,000 for the purpose of paying an annual stipend to each of the three Prudential Board Members and three Water Commissioners then in office. As follows: \$3,000 to be raised by taxation and \$3,000 to be transferred from Water Department Receipts.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 30

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 2017 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.

(It had been previously voted that Articles 31 and 32 be moved and voted before Article 2.)

ARTICLE 33

It was moved that the District vote to transfer \$257.72 from the Sale of Real Estate Stabilization Account, and close said account, into the Land Acquisition Stabilization Account. The sum of \$257.72 to be transferred from the Sale of Land Stabilization Fund.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

B. Miller explained that this was a small leftover amount of money and that it wasn't sensible to have such a small amount in a stabilization account.

Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller

Clerk, South Hadley Fire District No. 2

<u>Balance in Various Accounts as of April 30, 2016 (w/o April Interest)</u>		
	<u>Balance 4/30/2016</u>	<u>Proposed Amount to be Used</u>
District Free Cash	\$138,841.00	\$100,700.00
FD Capital Replacement	\$457,410.14	\$300,000.00
Stabilization (regular)	\$37,053.51	
OPEB Stabilization Fund	\$39,236.57	
Sale of Real Estate Stabilization	\$257.72	\$257.72
Land Acquisition Stabilization Fund	\$19,337.97	
Ambulance Receipts Reserved	\$234,300.57	\$233,766.00
Fire Prevention & Associated Reserved	\$19,500.00	\$19,500.00
Water Systems Improvement Fund (WSIF)	\$ 4,797.83	
Article #15 transfer to WSIF	<u>\$116,940.33</u>	
WSIF Balance after Article 15	\$121,738.16	\$ 75,000.00
Water Surplus	\$109,419.82	\$69,950.00
Water Storage Tank Stabilization Fund	\$205,232.83	
WD Vehicle Stabilization Fund	\$102,436.15	\$100,000.00