



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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Minutes of January 7, 2020

Convened: 5:35

Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna

Members: James Menard & Kenneth LeBlanc

South Hadley District #2: Asst. Chief Todd Calkins

Treasurer Barbara Miller

Others Present: Kim Prough

Linda Young

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna. He announced that the meeting is being recorded.

The PC members discussed the ad for the Fire Chief's position and the salary range to be included in the ad. K. McKenna stated that the salary range for this area, according to B. Duggan is \$90,000 to \$105,000. K. McKenna recommended starting at \$80,000 to \$100,000. There was discussion regarding the prior chiefs' pay rates and the education stipends.

J. Menard made a motion to put the ad out with a range of \$80,000 to \$100,000, second by K. LeBlanc. Vote unanimous.

The PC reviewed the fire department budget by line item. Asst. Chief Calkins explained account 5101 includes the five fulltime employees. He stated that full time FF/EMTs Mike O'Neill and Brian Fay were promoted to Lieutenant as well as Sam Lemanski an on-call FF/EMT. Asst. Chief Calkins requested the increase to \$29.15 for Lt. O'Neill and Lt. Fay, to match that of Lt. Moore. S. Lemanski received the \$3.00 hourly increase on the monthly payroll paid in January. He believes the increases can be paid within the current budget. The PC members expressed disappointment regarding the issue of the promotions not being brought to the attention of the PC prior to the exam and promotion process. K. McKenna expressed that he does not like operating under the Strong Chief Act. He also expressed a desire to propose the budget with three sections: personal services, operating expense and capital. T. Calkins agreed that the transparency between Chief and PC has been lacking. It was made clear that remaining funds in the chief salary line are not to be touched.

There was discussion regarding elimination of the Strong Chief Act. It needs to be voted at a District meeting. If there is a chief in place, he/she is grandfathered.

Discussion returned to the Lt positions. K. LeBlanc stated that as Ambulance Coordinator, Lt. Moore has more responsibilities than the other lieutenants and doesn't feel the pay should be the same. He proposed a rate of \$28.15 for the two new fulltime lieutenants. K. McKenna agreed

that ambulance coordinator has a high level of responsibility. There was discussion regarding the ambulance reports.

K. LeBlanc made a motion to increase Lt. O'Neill and Lt. Fay to \$28.15 per hour and Lt. Moore will remain at \$29.15. J. Menard seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

K. McKenna stated that \$46,500 was spent on fire truck repairs, excluding preventative maintenance, in the last three years to keep our FF safe. There was discussion regarding using the MHC gift monies to pay the lease for a fire truck. J. Menard recommended using \$470,000 from the Vehicle Stabilization Fund toward the purchase of the fire truck and use the \$20,000 MHC gift monies annually for lease payment on the remaining \$200,000. J. Menard suggested K. McKenna continue his relationship with MHC and discuss additional funding. There was discussion regarding replacement of oxygen bottles. T. Calkins said four bottles are replaced each year. All 53 bottles were tested this year.

B. Miller stated that she strongly recommends a Special District Meeting if we intend to get the truck without the price increase, as we can not sign an agreement saying we will spend money on a vehicle, when we have not gotten District Meeting approval. J. Menard stated that he is ok with a Special District Meeting because we could do the truck and the Strong Chief Act at the same time. L. Young voiced her opinion that we would not get the turnout needed at a special district meeting in January. B. Miller stated that she feels the Strong Chief Act is too important to be voted at a special district meeting. She stated the only reason she is interested in doing the truck at a special, is because we are trying to save the District \$20,000. After much discussion it was determined not to hold a special district meeting.

There was additional discussion regarding Fire Dept. line items and areas which may be reduced. Ambulance budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

J. Menard stated that he would like money put aside to take down the building at Elmer Brook. He discussed it with the Water Superintendent, the cost will be roughly forty thousand dollars. The WC will meet at the end of the month. B. Miller mentioned the generator, T. Calkins said it is on his radar to get numbers for an exterior generator.

J. Menard asked to get the budget numbers prior to the next meeting. B. Miller agreed to give them the numbers she has available. T. Calkins agreed to have preliminary numbers in advance of the meeting. B. Miller said that she would have the OPEB Declaration of Trust documents for signatures.

K. McKenna stated the B. Miller would discuss with him anything that comes up in the examination process for the Chief position.

The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Tuesday January 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____