



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075
Tel: (413) 534-5748 - Fax: (413) 517-6054

Minutes of October 13, 2020

Convened: 5:30 p.m.

Adjourned 6:34 p.m.

Present

Prudential Committee Chair: James Menard

Members: Robert Bak

Clerk/Treasurer: Barbara Miller

Fire Chief: Todd Calkins

Others Present:

Brian Fay

Frank DeToma via telephone

Meeting called to order by Chairman Menard. He announced that the meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the website and is available via gotomeeting

Payroll and Vendor Warrants were reviewed by R. Bak. Per Sections 57-58 of the Municipal Modernization Act and PC votes of 12/15/2016 and 3/10/2020 warrants were previously approved by J. Menard, PC Chair.

Minutes

R. Bak made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020, second by J. Menard. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Report

Chief Calkins reported that Covid testing continues at MHC, they are getting tested once per week. Ambulance and fire call numbers remain steady. There was an accident on the bridge that required all five of South Hadley ambulances and an Action ambulance. Dispatching going very well. Chief stated that there is software he plans to look into that utilizes their IMC and exports to our Ambupro and ERS.

Application deadline for the fulltime FF/EMT is tomorrow at 0800, currently has 20 applications. He will be meeting as an officer group to evaluate the applications then have an interview process. J. Menard stated that there has been discussion regarding reducing the Districts contribution toward insurance for new hires, and asked that the Chief hold off on insurance discussions with the candidates for now.

Fire truck drawings will be complete on November 27th and a meeting with J. Henske on November 30th to review the drawings and give the ok for the build. There will be factory visits but the dates have not been set. Approximate delivery date is 8 months from giving the ok for the build. Chief stated that when the truck arrives it will not be in service. It will require training and it will take time to strategize the filling of compartments etc.

Chief stated that the ambulance current collections are very good. The vast majority of the old ones will be written off.

PC Chair Discussion Items

J. Menard read the statement of agreement he developed. He asked F. DeToma to present it to the Water Commissioners. F. DeToma agreed but said they would not be meeting for a month. The PC members and F. DeToma agreed that there would be benefits to the boards having more interaction. They could learn from the other.

J. Menard stated that the stabilization funds will need to be built back up. He stated that he wants to set up an ambulance stabilization fund. He recommends taking a percentage or specific dollar amount of leftover ambulance receipts for appropriation. Chief Calkins projects that a new ambulance in ten years will be approximately \$330,000. Anticipates needing an ambulance in ten years. Chief Calkins stated that if we can get 30 years out of Engine 2 it will need replacing in 2027 and projects the cost will be \$820,000.

There was discussion regarding Free Cash and the Stabilization Funds.

There was discussion regarding the need for funding to replace PPE equipment i.e. turnout gear, air packs etc. because the MHC gift account will not be available for that purpose.

Treasurer Discussion Items

B. Miller addressed the OPEB GASB 74 & 75 Actuarial Study dated 9/15/2020 stating that with the completion of the investing of monies into the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund (SRBTF) our obligation went from 2.5 million to 1.5 million in part based on the change in the discount rate from 2.75% to 7% because the money is earning more. That number will change periodically. The percentage of the split between Water and PC has changed due to a FD employee retiring earlier than anticipated and one of the WD retirees left the system. Therefore, the split is PC 71.44% and WD 28.57% this too will fluctuate and will even out as people retire from the WD. She stated that due to his interest in the past she would like to email the report to J. Prough.

B. Miller stated that the tax receipts to date are in line with the numbers to this date last year.

B. Miller provided the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust Amended Agreement to the PC explaining that the previous agreement included many references to the Hampshire Council of Governments which has dissolved. She stated that if the PC wished she could send a copy to Attorney O'Toole for review but that she would not want him to make detailed recommendations as there are 50 plus communities involved. She had made one recommendation to J. Shea of the HCGIT regarding Part 4b as the prior agreement stated that the late fee would be increased by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the IAC.

B. Miller provided a list of the percentages contributed by each of the member communities to their employees/retirees' health insurance premiums. B. Miller stated that she had received a response from Attorney O'Toole regarding District contributions to insurance premium and whether it was a decision by the PC or if it needed to go to District Meeting. She stated that she needed to do to further research before getting back to him with questions.

The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Tuesday November 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____