



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

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

Minutes of November 17, 2020

Convened: 5:30 p.m.

Adjourned 6:40 p.m.

Present Remotely via GotoMeeting link

Prudential Committee Chair: James Menard

Members: Kenneth LeBlanc

Robert Bak

Clerk/Treasurer: Barbara Miller

Fire: Lt. Michael O'Neill

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

Payroll and Vendor Warrants were reviewed by K. LeBlanc and 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

K. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2020, second by R. Bak. Motion approved with a unanimous vote.

PC Chair Discussion Items

J. Menard stated that the District can not change the insurance contribution percentage for only new employees. B. Miller referenced MGL Chapter 32B Section 7A, which states that "No governmental unit, however, shall provide different subsidiary or additional rates to any group or class within that unit." She stated that it may be possible to have different contribution rates for retirees than employees because they are covered under separate sections of the law and the list from the HCGIT shows several communities with different percentages for current employees and retirees. She stated that changing the retiree contribution is what would help the OPEB liability. B. Miller to check with DOR Division of Local Services Attorney's regarding whether it is a vote of the PC or District meeting. She will also check with Odyssey Advisors and ask for an estimate of the OPEB savings if the insurance premium contributions for retirees are reduced.

Statement of Agreement

J. Menard read the Statement of Agreement as follows:

The District #2 Prudential Board and Water Commissioners would like to explore ways in which we can increase our cooperation with District #1. To that end, we feel that it would be useful for the two District Boards to more fully understand each other's operations. There may well be ways in which, together, we can improve our services to the community. The Fire Chiefs, Water Superintendents, and the Clerk Treasurers of the two Districts have already established efficient working relationships; we feel that the two Boards should do the same. Therefore, we are proposing that the two Boards open a regular dialog with each other. We are suggesting that the two Boards, or the two Chairs, or two Board representatives meet on a regular basis (monthly,

quarterly, twice a year, or once a year), in order to discuss any issues of mutual interest. It may be preferable to periodically attend each other's regular monthly meetings.

Our hope is that improved communication between the two Boards will enable all of us to better serve our respective Districts.

K. LeBlanc made a motion to approve to the Statement of Agreement dated November 17, 2020, second by R. Bak. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

J. Menard will attend a Water Commissioners meeting to discuss the agreement with them. Then he will present it to District 1.

OPEB Policy

B. Miller stated that the annual contribution amount in the OPEB Actuarial Valuation has been calculated at \$50,000 between Prudential Committee budget (taxation) and Water Dept. budget (water rates). Parker Elmore recommended we adopt that as a policy to confirm our commitment of funding at that amount.

K. LeBlanc made a motion to annually fund the Fire Employee and Retirees percentage of the \$50,000 Annual Trust Contribution Beyond Pay As You Go, to the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund. The percentage to be determined according to the Net OPEB Liability in the most recent GASB74 and 75 Actuarial Valuation (currently by Odyssey Advisors). Second by R. Bak. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Stabilization Policies

There was discussion regarding an ambulance stabilization policy.

K. LeBlanc made a motion that 50% of the remaining ambulance receipts reserved for appropriation balance be transferred annually, through a District Meeting vote, from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation to an Ambulance Stabilization Fund, R. Bak second. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

There was discussion regarding whether to set a policy of using Free Cash monies via a specific dollar amount, a percentage or some combination of the two for an annual contribution to the Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund. No motion was made.

Evaluations for Fire Chief and Treasurer

J. Menard stated that his objective is to have an understanding of the goals and objectives of the Fire Chief and the Treasurer. He doesn't have a format but would just like to have a discussion and write it down with short, medium and long term goals, so we are all on the same page.

Chief Report presented by Lt. O'Neill

Lt. O'Neill reported that the calls are still consistent, even with MHC not having students. MHC is still planning to have a thousand students return in January. On the fire side everything is going as good as it can during this time of COVID. J. Menard asked about the status of the fire truck. Lt O'Neill stated that on November 30th himself, Cpt. Moriarty and Asst. Chief Fernandez will go with Jason Henske to Appleton Wisconsin to approve the drawings and officially start building the truck. Because we are ahead of schedule, we may get in ahead of four other engines and bump our delivery time to April instead of May. Lt. confirmed that MHC continues to providing COVID testing for ten members of the department weekly.

Treasurer Discussion Items

B. Miller stated that she sent quarterly reports via email.

HCGIT Agreement

B. Miller stated that she had provided the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust Agreement to the PC at the October meeting. She stated that the reason for the revised agreement is due to the dissolution of the Council of Governments. She asked that the board take a vote allowing her to vote for approval of the agreement when she attends the Insurance Advisory Council meeting in January.

K. LeBlanc made a motion to have B. Miller accept the HCGIT agreement at the next meeting, second by R. Bak. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Menard asked how the payments to MHC for the dispatching were being handled. B. Miller stated that they are sending an invoice and she makes the payment. The first payment was prorated for the late start.

The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Tuesday December 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____