



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

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

Minutes of December 7, 2021

Convened: 5:32 p.m.

Adjourned 6:50 p.m.

Present

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth LeBlanc

Members: James Menard
Robert Bak

Clerk/Treasurer: Barbara Miller
Fire Chief: Todd Calkins

Others Present:

Captian Moore
Linda Young
Al Zuffoletti

Mitch Malinowski
Frank DeToma
Janice DeToma

Peter Mcavoy

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

Payroll and Vendor Warrants were reviewed by J. Menard 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 K. LeBlanc, PC Chair.

Minutes

J. Menard made a motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021, R. Bak second. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chief Report

Chief Calkins reported that the staff remain healthy; Covid cases are on the rise in South Hadley. Sand for Seniors with Triad, 50 + buckets of sand around town with District 1, SHPD and the Sheriff's office. DFS grant for FY22 was submitted for \$15,000 for equipment, thanks to Lt. O'Neill for his efforts. Dept. made a donation of \$750 to Rays of Hope through t-shirt sales and association money. Bruce Caron donated framed pictures for the station. E2 is going to the Douglas Auction in South Deerfield, they charge 10% commission and meet all procurement requirements. Overall call numbers are in line with last year.

EMS Report

Captain Moore reported that there was increased call volume in September and October and we are in good shape regarding PPE for Covid. There was discussion regarding calls, ALS and revenue.

Chief Report Con't.

Chief said he is putting a proposal together for a new pickup truck for the FY2023 budget. J. Menard asked if it would be replacing the car. Chief responded that it is in addition to the car. J. Menard said we will cross that bridge when we come to it. Chief stated that he wants to discuss an on-call EMT proposal for the next budget. The department will be applying for the AFG grant

for Air packs. The exhaust system will be started soon from the grant received from the FY2021 submission.

Cell Phones

J. Menard said that he went to a meeting with District 1 regarding a shared cell phone plan, District 1 has 10 extra phones with their plan. The rep. from T-Mobile did not show up for the meeting. Chief spoke with the rep on the phone and told him that he wanted a full presentation, and to have our questions answered. Water Dept. uses Scada and their phones are as important as the Fire Dept. Chief will have a Zoom meeting with the rep.

Fall Prevention Program

Captain Moore introduced a Fall Prevention Outreach Program. There was an initial meeting with District 1 and the S.H. Council on Aging regarding instituting a Fall Prevention Program. In District 2, falls are the #1 complaint that we respond to. There will be another meeting in January.

PC Chair Discussion Items

Elmer Brook

J. Menard stated that the cutting project is in process.

There was discussion regarding the Elmer Brook property and its pros and cons. J. Menard said he received a call from Anne Capra, S. H. Director of Planning and Conservation; she can write a grant for a bridge to cross over the brook.

COLA

B. Miller stated that the MCTA has a community forum, on which there was discussion regarding COLA increases. The Consumer Price Index increased 6.25% in October in 2021. The Town of West Tisbury responded that they use the Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Cost Index for the one year period ending Sept. 30, specifically Table 11: Wages and Salaries, it's the Cost Index for State and Local Government Workers. For FY2023 it would be a 2.4% increase. It went on to say that having an agreed upon index that takes a number of factors into consideration takes the politics out of it. B. Miller stated that the COLA discussion can be contentious and she would like to see the PC come up with something to use as the annual indicator for the COLA.

Evaluations

R. Bak said that he is working to create an evaluation format that is specific for the needs of the District. Chief Calkins stated that he has completed evaluations for the full-time positions in his department.

The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Tuesday January 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____