



## PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

### FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

Tel: (413) 534-5748 - Fax: (413) 517-6054

August 21, 2018

#### Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:03 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:55 p.m.

#### Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna

Members: Richard Constant and James Menard

South Hadley District #2: Chief Scott Brady

Asst. Chief Todd Calkins

Treasurer Barbara Miller

Francis DeToma, Water Commissioner

#### Others Present:

Brian Fay

Mike O'Neill

William Selkirk

Sam Lemanski

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna

R. Constant made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2018, motion seconded by J. Menard. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Payroll and Vendor Warrants were reviewed by J. Menard and R. Constant. Per Sections 57-58 of the Municipal Modernization Act and PC vote of 12/15/2016 warrants were previously approved by K. McKenna PC Chair.

Chairman McKenna requested a moment of silence in reverence to the passing of Attorney Ed Ryan. Stating that Attorney Ryan had served as legal counsel to District 2 for 45 years and was also legal counsel for the Town of South Hadley and served as their Moderator.

Chairman McKenna stated that Rob Lak, retired Prudential Committee member, had requested a public thank you to all those who had reached out to help during his recent illness.

#### **Fire Chief Report and Discussion Items**

Chief Brady reported that there had been 51 incidents, with 26 fires calls and 25 EMS calls, which is standard for this time of year. The student population will be increasing soon which will bring an increase to the call volume. MHC is increasing housing with 60 additional rooms.

Chief Brady provided a report from the Ambulance Committee which has completed the evaluation of options. The specs were sent to Greenwood for a quote, which came in at \$254,401 with the performance load system. Chief Brady recommends the PC spend an additional \$16,970 for the power load system. R. Constant stated that he did not think they should make a decision tonight, rather he felt they should take time to study the documents provided (attached).

Chief Brady stated that he thinks they should start thinking about an engine for the next Annual District Meeting warrant. R. Constant stated that he thinks the original assessment was exaggerated, while he appreciates it being brought to their attention he would like to monitor the truck. With the cost of the truck and discussions of a merger he, speaking for himself, is not interested in putting it on the warrant. J. Menard stated that he needs to comprehend everything, he went to the District 1 meeting, he's not sure about putting it on the warrant, but that's not for a while, he feels we need to think about it more. Chief Brady stated that the tires are ten years old and will cost about \$2,500 to replace.

J. Menard asked if there was an itemized list for the ambulance, Chief Brady replied that it was included. J. Menard asked if there was anything on the list that could be removed, he agreed the power load system would be beneficial he wondered if there was anything else that could be removed to keep the cost at \$250,000. He stated that they had been very efficient and had done a great job putting this together. Chief Brady said that some of the costs are to make things consistent between the primary and secondary ambulances.

K. McKenna stated that he is not interested in a truck at this particular time, we have the ambulance and other issues.

### **PC Chair Report and Discussion Items**

#### **Election Update**

R. Constant stated that we will need legislation to hold the election outside District boundaries. Attorney Ed Ryan had sent a draft to M. Tassinari, Legal Counsel of the Secretary of the Commonwealth Elections Division and there had been emails from Attorney M. Beauregard, District 1 Legal Counsel. He further stated that he'd contacted Rep. John Scibak and forwarded copies of all the emails and Attorney Ryan's draft legislation. He reported that Rep. Scibak does not think we will need legislation to use tabulation machines at this time. K. McKenna asked if there would be any costs. R. Constant replied that there would be the cost of the tabulating machines and legal costs.

#### **Legal Representation**

K. McKenna stated that he spoke with Attorney Paul Boudreau and will be meeting with him regarding District 2. B. Miller provided a list of several surrounding communities and the names of their legal counsel taken from the Mass. Municipal Lawyers Assoc. website:

Southwick – Bacon & Wilson

Hadley – K. P. Law

Hatfield – William J. O'Neil

Greenfield – Richard J. Kos

Northampton – Alan Seewald

Easthampton – John Fitz-Gibbon

Amherst – K. P. Law

Springfield, Holyoke and Chicopee have their own Law Departments

#### **Elmer Brook Property**

J. Menard stated that Frank DeToma and William Selkirk have agreed to join him in forming the Elmer Brook Committee to investigate future use and/or sale of portions of the Elmer Brook Property. He provided them with copies of the contacts and email histories previously provided to the PC. J. Menard stated he spoke with P. Gagnon from Kestrel Land Trust. J. Menard said we cannot develop the back track as it is protected. His feeling is that the first step is to determine if solar is a viable option: if it is then he thinks Kestrel may still be interested in the 2<sup>nd</sup> track, if it is not then he thinks Kestrel would be interested in purchasing more of the property and would cut

out a piece for the WD. He further stated that the Fire Dept. uses the land for technical rescue training and that would be able to continue. F. DeToma stated that the state came to the Water Dept. about 10 years ago offering \$1,000 per acre which they refused. J. Menard said that Representative Scibak returned his call and informed him that UMass Amherst has a solar farm on a piece of Chapter 97 property. He said he spoke with S. Fitzgerald from SHELD who was still waiting to hear back from Todd Bard of Lee Energy Group regarding battery storage possibilities.

#### Fiber-optics

J. Menard stated that he'd spoken with S. Fitzgerald about fiber-optics being utilized for District 2. He stated that he would like the Water Superintendent, Fire Chief and Treasurer to have a meeting with S. Fitzgerald if it was ok with the PC. K. McKenna and R. Constant agreed.

#### Ambulance

K. McKenna asked when the next Ambulance Committee Meeting would be. J. Menard stated that the proposal had been submitted to the PC therefore he did not anticipate any more meetings. R. Constant asked if they had looked at multiple companies. Chief Brady replied that Greenwood is on the FCAM list and therefore there is no need to go through the bidding process. Horton is middle of the road. Lt Moore, FF Fay, FF Davis and FF Cote went to the EMS Conference and FF O'Neill and Asst. Chief Calkins attended the Chief's Show in CT. There was discussion regarding the additional \$16,000 needed to cover the cost of the power load system. B. Miller stated that it could come from the Ambulance budget for now and, if necessary, the funds could be replenished from Ambulance Reserves by vote at a Special District Meeting, as it is likely we will need a Special District Meeting to accept MGL in regards to the election. K. McKenna suggested the money could come from the MHC gift account, B. Miller agreed that was a possibility as well.

#### Subcommittee postings

There was discussion regarding subcommittees and whether or not they should be posted meetings. B. Miller stated that she had a telephone conversation with Kevin Manganaro, Assistant Attorney General, Division of Open Government requesting clarification, in particular for the Elmer Brook Committee. Based on this conversation the Elmer Brook Committee does need to post their meetings because they are meeting at the request of the PC for the purpose of researching a topic to provide information to the Prudential Committee; that information will then be used by the PC in the decision-making process.

#### Merger

R. Constant stated that he had received an email from M. Wozniak, District 1 Prudential Committee Chair, which included a document titled Update on Merger Discussions-Fire Side Operations Only (attached). R. Constant provided copies of the document to the other PC members and Chief Brady. He read the opening paragraph of the document aloud stating that he had called M. Wozniak as he felt he needed to respond promptly. He read aloud his initial response: Merger Discussion - Fire Side

Both Fire Districts operation would merge, creating one entity within the Town of South Hadley. The merged Districts would be governed by a five-member Prudential Committee. The District 2 station would remain open and be equipped with two ambulances and either Engine 2 or Engine 4 based on an assessment of their condition. District 2 would have two firefighter/EMTs assigned to a given shift. Call firefighters would be available for staffing in an emergency.

R. Constant further stated that the District 1 document had a lot of options he could not support; any option that closed the D2 station or took the ambulance out are not an option. He told Chief

Brady that it would be helpful if he would develop his vision and the other PC members also. He said that District 1 is waiting for a response and therefore requests they be prepared for the next PC meeting. B. Selkirk stated that in the three times merger had been discussed during his 37 years with District 2 water had always been included. He continued stating if you don't include water you would need to create two separate water districts. J. Menard stated that they realized the water isn't that difficult; just two separate systems. F. DeToma stated that it is more complicated in terms of different supply with one gravity fed and one pumped system. B. Selkirk stated that it had been researched that the District does not have to pay \$750,000. J. Menard said that he was sure when they [District 1] wrote it they knew some of the options would not be approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report and Discussion Items**

##### **Mileage Rate**

B. Miller provided a draft of a Standard Mileage Rate Reimbursement Policy which would set the District 2 mileage rate equal to that set annually by the Internal Revenue Service, requesting approval by the PC. She stated that she believed it was the practice but could not find an approved policy. K. McKenna asked who was currently receiving mileage reimbursement. B. Miller replied that people are reimbursed when they use their personal vehicle to attend meetings, trainings or for other District related travel.

J. Menard made a motion to approve the Standard Mileage Rate Reimbursement Policy as presented (attached) in the draft. Motion seconded by R. Constant. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

- The next regular District meeting will be Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_