



## PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

### FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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

April 27, 2018

#### Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:07 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

#### Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna

Members: Richard Constant and Robert Lak

South Hadley District #2: Fire Chief Scott Brady

Asst. Chief Todd Calkins

Treasurer Barbara Miller

#### Others Present:

Jim Menard

Joe Fernandes

Sam Lemanski

Paul Lemoine

Mike Cote

Kyle Liguori

Mike Lenart

Mike Bourbeau

Scott Flynn

Natalie Stollmeyer

Pat Davis

Mike O'Neill

Brian Fay

Collin Mick

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna

#### PC Chair Report and Discussion Items

Prudential Committee Chair K. McKenna stated that based on the information made available to him recently, including the inspection analysis report by Greenwood which was presented at the April 9, 2018 Prudential Committee meeting he had asked Chief Brady to take E4 out of service via a letter dated April 19, 2018 due to concerns that it posed a serious risk to Firefighters and members of the public adding that he had asked Chief Brady to reach out to Chief Authier for mutual aid. He further stated that he discussed the letter sent to Chief Brady with Attorney Ed Ryan and he agreed that it should be taken out of service. He stated that he would like his actions ratified by the other two PC members.

R. Constant moved that we, as the members of the Prudential Committee, ratify the action of Chairman McKenna in sending the letter of April 19, 2018 to the Chief as we concur based upon the information made available to him the continued use of the unit in question presented an emergency situation that presented risk of injury to our fire fighters as well as members of the public. R. Lak seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

K. McKenna asked the PC members for discussion regarding E4. R. Lak expressed disappointment regarding a recent newspaper article and asked about the road worthiness of the truck. K. McKenna stated that he felt it best to wait until after ADM to see what happens on the petition by the citizens. The members discussed the report and the cost of repairs (letter from Greenwood attached). R. Constant stated that the PC was going to do the ambulance this year and the truck next year and that K. McKenna planned to go to MHC for assistance. K. McKenna agreed stating that he had three items he intended to discuss with MHC: dispatching, renewal of the annual \$20,000 for equipment and assistance with the purchase of a fire engine. R. Constant stated that once you go on TV and state everything that is wrong with a vehicle and call it unsafe,

we can't go back and keep it on the road. K. McKenna stated that going for mutual aid with a vehicle, knowing the pump could fail is a liability stating that he had never had a report like this in his 20 years. He said he is trying to be fair while listening to our attorney and insurance agent and he asked the Chief to take it out of service. R. Lak stated that he felt the wording in the estimate appeared contrived and that he had lost faith in the vendor. R. Constant stated that it was worth noting that they sell trucks. K. McKenna addressed Chief Brady regarding the timing of the reports on E4 and questioned why money was turned back in each year if there were repairs needed to the vehicles. Chief Brady stated that he wished to respond to the concerns about the sequence of events; stating that he received the report from Greenwood the day of the PC meeting and that he was contacted by the press the next day and reached out to the PC. B. Miller was out but he finally contacted K. McKenna who said he didn't want to speak to the press. Chief Brady stated that it was just timing, nothing deceitful. In response to the request to reach out to Chief Authier, they are already there, they always come; everything we do requires mutual aid. Chief Brady stated that he feels keeping the vehicle out of service creates a liability, it carries people and equipment. He said that he apologizes if the PC members feel slighted with how this all came about. K. McKenna stated that he is heartbroken, the PC worked hard to get the agreement with MHC, he stated that your people work hard too and they are well compensated for it. D. Keefe stated that it was no mystery that E4 was coming up in age and was close to needing replacement and that he had made that clear. R. Constant asked, why wasn't some of the money that was turned back in used for maintenance of the truck. Chief Brady responded that maintenance was done and he has the records but it continues to degrade. R. Lak stated that rather than throw out misconceptions and twist things we need to discuss how to get the truck back on the road. Further stating that he wished to put on paper that our largest customer is negligent because they do the bare minimum that they can do. R. Constant stated that people can argue that MHC should do more but they were paying \$10,000 a year when he came on the board and now they pay \$20,000 and we had an agreement for \$400,000 which failed at ADM, now they are offering \$200,000 for an ambulance, they have come a long way and we need to appreciate that. K. McKenna said that we are trying to get help from MHC for dispatching, he's looked at their new facility and it is very nice but when he brought that information back to the PC meeting it was met with negativity from the firefighters. Further stating that we [PC] need your support, adding that he is here everyday and they [full-time] do a damn good job and that credit goes to the chiefs. D. Keefe stated that, in an effort to save everyone a lot of time and effort calling in vendors, he, knowing of the 12 years of maintenance on these vehicles, can professionally tell you that E4 is not worth repairing and the difficult thing to say is that E2 is not very far behind it. He continued saying the Chair knows that those to vehicles were purchased within a couple years of each other and that is a problem. He encouraged the board not to put time into how to keep that vehicle on the road but to spend time on how to get the tax payers to approve the new vehicle the ISO rating is based on having two pumpers. R. Lak stated that the issue is that we have a nebulous warrant article that says to spend \$650,000 on a truck; if it fails, is it then worth keeping E4 on the road. D. Keefe said if it fails they should look into leasing for a year or asking other large communities if they have a truck they would be willing to lend out. There was continued discussion regarding maintenance and the inspection report, eventually K. McKenna asked to wrap up the discussion stating that it had been presented that they would wait to see how it goes at District Meeting and asking if the other two PC members were in agreement. R. Lak and R. Constant indicated that they were.

Prudential Committee members reviewed the motions as presented by B. Miller. R. Constant recommended using \$20,000 of the money in Article 19 to increase the PC Reserve Fund that amount to be used for repairs to E4 if Article 29 fails. He suggested speaking with Attorney Ryan to determine how best to accomplish this. There was discussion regarding who is responsible for the motion including determining the funding sources for the petitioned article. K. McKenna

asked B. Miller to ask Attorney Ryan to meet with the two of them next week. There was additional discussion regarding funding of the petitioned article.

The next Prudential Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

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