



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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

April 9, 2018

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Convened: 6:03 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:35 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

Francis DeToma, Water Commissioner

Others Present: Jim Menard

Mike O'Neill

Brian Fay

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna

Minutes of March 29, 2018, were read and approved as presented. Motion to approve the minutes made by R. Constant, second by R. Lak; the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll and Vendor Warrants were reviewed by R. Lak 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.

Fire Chief Report and Discussion Items

Chief Brady reported that both engines underwent their annual pump maintenance with Greenwood, their On The Road service came to the station. E2 passed the pump performance test, it has some maintenance type issues (see reports attached) and Chief Brady stated that he was told it would make a good back up engine. E4 failed the pump performance test and has other maintenance issues (see report attached). Chief Brady stated that it is not holding vacuum due to valve failures, we could replace every valve but the vehicle is 27 years old. Questions were asked regarding the need for E4. He explained that E4 is our second due engine and mutual aid piece and the equipment on board is different than E2 because you go with the intent to work as a backup water supply. R. Lak asked if Greenwood would provide an estimate for repairs. Chief responded that he would ask for an estimate but they can't be sure what they will find once they begin the repairs. L. Young asked how many pieces we have? Chief responded two engines. R. Lak asked what this failure means. Chief Brady said that we can use it as long as we have good hydrants but his fear is that it will fail on scene especially since this is the mutual aid vehicle and we don't know what other communities have for hydrants; we will be using a vehicle that has failed the pump test. Chief Brady stated that he urges the board to put an engine on the warrant and let the voters decide. R. Lak asked where we stand to buy an engine now, have we talked to MHC for an engine. R. Constant stated that he didn't think we should go to MHC for an engine now. Chief Brady said that he didn't think we should work on that vehicle. R. Constant asked for an explanation why we wouldn't use E2 for mutual aide. Chief Brady stated that not all pumps are alike, they are equipped differently. Based on differences in fires i.e.

smoke/fire presentation, fire load, and building construction different equipment is needed. E2 is an attack piece with 3" and 4" hose where as E4 is a water supply piece with 1,300 feet of 5" hose. The secondary engine is also used for the Rapid Intervention Team in the case of a downed firefighter. R. Lak asked if we could write a warrant article stating "if we can secure funds". B. Miller stated that the motion needs a definitive dollar amount. R. Constant said that with a mutual aid call we send it [E4] out now. Chief Brady responded that it's working but you need to have the right person working it, that knows how to monitor the pressure, it's leaking by all the valves; there are just no promises with this vehicle. R. Lak asked how many valves. T. Calkins replied, a lot, maybe 12-14, plus internals and the pressure relief which sticks.

L. Young asked if the ambulance was a given. K. McKenna responded that it is not for sure a given. R. Constant said that we thought the engine was a given two years ago but it failed on District meeting floor.

PC Chair Report and Discussion Items

K. McKenna stated that he has a series of meetings coming up with MHC for: dispatching, renewal of the \$20,000 equipment payments and to discuss an engine. He reviewed a list of large items the district will need including an engine, brush truck, bunker gear, SCBA bottles, etc. Chief Brady stated that we do not need a brush truck but we will need a utility vehicle. K. McKenna stated that we need to put the firefighters' safety first, we can lose a truck but not a firefighter, their safety gear must come first.

L. Young asked if we could put this [firetruck] on for next year. K. McKenna stated that we have mutual aide agreements to assist us if needed.

K. McKenna discussed the possibility of MHC doing our dispatching. L. Young asked if there would be a cost to us. K. McKenna responded that in the first couple of meetings he was told there would be no cost, but that may change; he is meeting with them the third week of May.

K. McKenna stated that the new ambulance bond payments will be funded through ambulance receipts and the payments from MHC. He further stated that \$40,000 was going into Vehicle Stabilization this year and there should be another \$40,000 next year toward an engine. B. Miller suggested consideration be given to her proposal from the last meeting. T. Calkins stated that he understands the money concerns and keeping the ambulance separate from the engine but stressed that we really need this. K. McKenna asked what it would cost to lease an engine. T. Calkins stated that they had a quote for leasing. B. Miller stated that the quote was lease to own which she didn't think was what Ken had in mind. T. Calkins stated that as a department they want this on the warrant and let the people decide. R. Constant stated that the agenda is the Prudential Committees decision and we've already had this discussion, further stating they have to be concerned for the taxpayers too. R. Constant stated that if we could do dispatching through MHC it would pay for a new fire truck. He went on to say that the Town expenditures went up 1% and they heard arguments, yet we hear from you [fire chief] that no one ever comes in and complains. K. McKenna stated that he has a plan for negotiations with MHC. R. Lak said that personally he is open to beginning a discussion about a new truck on District meeting floor and asked for an estimate for the valves. Chief Brady said that he would get an estimate. M. O'Neill stated that they had estimates for a truck, \$650,000. Chief Brady stated that if we are going to sit on this for a year he would at least like to talk with Greenwood.

Treasurer's Report and Discussion Items

B. Miller said that if a letter was going to be included in the water bills she needed to give it to them by the 25th and that we would need to hand stuff the bills. R. Constant stated that he had a letter prepared and provided copies. B. Miller suggested that the paragraph about the ambulance

should be first since their greatest concern was that the ambulance article pass due to the fear of insulting the college if it were to fail. There was general agreement, she also suggested that additional verbiage be added to explain the need for an ambulance. Chief Brady said he could assist with that.

K. McKenna stated that they needed to vote to dispose of R6 which had been taken off the road due to the need for costly repairs. T. Calkins said that he researched the original acquisition of the vehicle and determined that it was purchased from the Department of Defense and did not need to be returned to them but could be disposed of. B. Miller stated that she reviewed MGL Chapter 30B Section 15 (f), which states, "For a supply with an estimated net value of less than \$10,000, the procurement officer shall dispose of such supply using written procedures approved by the governmental body." She further stated that she could not find where any written procedure had been approved by the PC and had asked Atty. Ryan who said he too had no recollection of an approved procedure and provided basic wording for such a policy. B. Miller will create the policy and get it reviewed by Atty. Ryan to be approved by the PC at the next regular meeting.

The PC reviewed the warrant articles. Chief Brady asked if he could recognize Ronald Langevin's passing and acknowledge his service to the District. Asst. Chief Calkins asked if he might express appreciation to the firefighters and K. McKenna offered to acknowledge Francis Conti for his many years as an assessor.

There was discussion regarding the funding source page of the budget. R. Constant asked if the tax rate increase calculation was correct because it didn't look right to him. B. Miller left the meeting to check the formula and returned stating that the formula was comparing to the FY2017 tax rate because it had the number in the formula rather than picking up the cell. The correct increase is now calculated at 14 cents. B. Miller apologized for the error. R. Lak asked her to review all the computations on the sheets to confirm their accuracy. She agreed that she would.

- The next PC meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on May 7th, immediately prior to the Annual District Meeting on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____