



## **PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2**

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### **February 6, 2018 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Convened: 6:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:20 p.m.

Present: Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna  
Members: Richard Constant and Robert Lak  
South Hadley District #2: Fire Chief Scott Brady  
Treasurer Barbara Miller  
Others Present: Todd Calkins  
Joe Fernandes  
Mike Bourbeau  
Pat Davis  
Mike O'Neill  
Don May

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna

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.

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

K. McKenna announced that he would not be reporting on the Bike Walk Committee this evening and that R. Constant would not be providing an update of the election due to the need to spend time on the budget. K. McKenna asked the Treasurer what the amount was for the recommended annual contribution to the OPEB fund. B. Miller responded that her recollection was that the numbers was approximately \$134,000 she further explained that she had a revised copy of the report which had been emailed to the PC members. The revised report was necessary because the initial report treated the OPEB Stabilization fund as a trust fund, which it currently is not. If it were a true trust fund the monies would be solely dedicated to the OPEB liability. But because it is a stabilization fund it can technically be used for any legal purpose approved by a 2/3 vote at a District meeting and therefore can not be counted as an asset to reduce the Actuarial Accrued Liability. B. Miller stated that she recommended a \$10,000 appropriation to the OPEB Stabilization Fund in this budget. K. McKenna stated that he was thinking the number should be higher. B. Miller agreed it should be higher but felt it should go up incrementally; the appropriation was doubled last year and this amount doubles it again this year. B. Miller indicated that she liked the suggestion by Parker Elmore of Odyssey, at the January 16 meeting, to increase payments now and make larger payments once the Hampshire County Retirement is fully funded (approximately 2032). R. Constant asked how many years were left on the building bond, B. Miller responded seven after the budget currently being worked on. There was discussion regarding the possibility, once the building bond payment is gone, using that area of the budget to increase payments to the OPEB fund.

K. McKenna questioned some small dollar expenditures from the Mount Holyoke College gift account. Chief Brady responded that those were expenses incurred for the installation of the extractor. K. McKenna stated that the MHC gift account is for equipment purchases only and read an excerpt from the 2012 MOU “The College’s voluntary contributions are to be used solely for capital equipment, and not for operating budget support.” B. Miller indicated that she recalled approval by the PC to use funds from the MHC fund to purchase and install the extractor. K. McKenna stated that he did not feel small amounts like the ones he was questioning should be coming from the MHC gift account. Chief Brady stated that his current plan for the MHC Gift fund is to put the annual contribution aside for the purchase of bottles and bunker gear.

Twenty-seven sets of bunker gear need to be replaced by 2025:

- 3 sets in 2020
- 5 sets in 2023
- 18 sets in 2025
- Estimate \$2,675 for a full set of Bunkers (Based on bids for 2014 and 2016)
- Total \$72,225

Forty-two SCBA bottles need to be replaced by 2028

- 26 in 2024
- 4 in 2026
- 12 in 2028
- Estimate per bottle \$1,220 (Based on bids for 2014 and 2016)
- Total \$51,240

Chief Brady further stated that this estimate does not include adding new gear for support FF, it is only for existing gear that is NFPA compliant and for the SCBA bottles that are required to be replaced according to manufacture specifications; replacing air packs would be a whole different conversation. The MHC \$20,000 per year over seven years will cover these costs. R. Constant asked if there is an equipment line in the budget, Chief Brady responded that there has not been one for at least the last few years. R. Constant suggested funding the equipment line 5417 so there would be something other than the MHC account to fund these types of purchases. Chief Brady stated that his budget request includes \$12,200. K. McKenna asked what the balance was in the MHC fund, Chief Brady said \$27,000. K. McKenna stated that there would be an additional \$20,000 in June, B. Miller agreed. K. McKenna suggested that he might wish to use some of those funds for the ambulance purchase. There was discussion regarding the amount in the Ambulance Reserves for Appropriation account.

Budget discussions continued. R. Lak asked what the Chief expense line was used for, Chief Brady responded that it paid for his cell phone, meals at regional association meetings, food during standby and other discretionary purchases. R. Constant indicated that the fire department budget has increased 10% in the past three years and he does not feel these increases are sustainable. He asked Chief Brady to explain how the fire department personnel has changed over the past several years. Chief Brady explained that Chief Keefe had four full time fire fighters then Bill Selkirk came to full time days and when Bill left he (Brady) went to full time days. R. Constant asked, as fire prevention officer? Chief Brady replied yes, as well as supervisor of the shift firefighters and performing shift coverage. He also stated that the fire code book used to be a thin book with the fire chief having discretion but now everything is by code and they need to learn and implement the code requirements. R. Constant asked about on-call and how that has changed. Chief Brady responded that with the changes to minimum wage laws the pay scales were adjusted. The FF/EMTs are now paid minimum wage for on-call hours and \$28 per call. The on-call rate used to be much lower and the pay per call rate was much higher. R. Constant asked about how the Radio Operator changed. Chief Brady responded that they were paid minimum wage. K. McKenna stated that the chief used to do all the fire permits etc. Chief

Brady responded that he did do inspections and permits with Asst. Chief Calkins. He also stated that we didn't have 24 hour ambulance coverage back then. He further stated that you have to look at the service you want to provide and there is expense related to those services.

K. McKenna stated that he has had three meetings with Mount Holyoke College and there is a possibility the college will provide dispatching, we won't know until after they meet with their Finance Board in May.

K. McKenna stated that Mount Holyoke College has agreed to \$200,000 for an ambulance payable in ten annual payments of \$20,000. R. Constant stated that we need to know the fire fighter/EMTs are in support of this because we do not want this to fail at Annual District Meeting the way the truck did. R. Lak stated that with or without the college we're going to need it. K. McKenna stated that he wants everyone to understand these negotiations were not easy. We should have a draft of the MOU in two weeks. He checked with some ambulance vendors and the Rolls-Royce of ambulances go for \$300,000 to \$325,000 he recommends capping the purchase at \$250,000. He further stated that District 1 purchased a demo ambulance for \$212,000.

K. McKenna read a letter received from District 1 (attached) in response to our statement dated November 28, 2017. K. McKenna asked if R. Constant was willing to be the designee from District 2 to meet with M. Wozniak and the Fire Chiefs of each District. R. Constant agreed and asked B. Miller to provide the documentation requested. B. Miller stated that she had a binder already prepared, she would just like to make a copy before it is turned over to District 1 and she requests we make sure to receive a copy of their information as well. R. Lak stated that he was glad to see the first paragraph which says that "any formal merger discussions take place only after financial data and forecasts have been collected and reviewed." R. Constant stated that he was glad to see that the Fire Chiefs would be involved in the discussions and asked Chief Brady how he felt. Chief Brady stated the he was pleased to see that as well and that it is always good to talk. K. McKenna requested a motion to accept the letter from District 1.

R. Lak made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the letter from District 1, R. Constant second. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Brady asked for further information about the college and dispatching. K. McKenna stated that as it looks right now they may provide dispatching services; it's still being discussed.

K. McKenna stated that the MHC gift MOU expires in 2020 and said that he had asked representatives from the college if he could begin negotiations to extend that equipment MOU. He said the college indicated that they would be willing to consider that request.

J. Fernandes questioned how the dispatching would work. M. O'Neill stated that they are trained differently. R. Constant said that it was a long way from fruition all these concerns will have to be worked out. J. Fernandes responded that we need to do what is best for the District not just for the money.

K. McKenna asked R. Lak if he intended to run for another term on the Prudential Committee. R. Lak responded that he did not. K. McKenna acknowledged the response and stated that he personally intended to run for another term because there was so much to be completed. He asked R. Constant what his plans were; R. Constant responded that he wasn't going anywhere.

T. Calkins asked about the engines, stating that there was money in stabilization asking if we could bond for both the ambulance and the additional they would need to get an engine? K. McKenna stated that he thought we should hold off on the engine for now. R. Constant agreed. R. Lak stated that he would look to Chief to know whether it was something that could last another year but that doesn't mean we can't start thinking about it. Chief Brady stated that it needs to be replaced.

P. Davis asked if we were planning to run any campaign to advocate for the ambulance wondering how we could best educate people. K. McKenna responded that the warrant would be included with the water bills for the first time this year. There was additional discussion regarding publicity for the Annual District Meeting.

Chief Brady stated that the budget passed last year without a single complaint and that he never gets complaints from anyone. If we had people complaining then he could understand the concerns over the budget. He feels people don't come to the meeting because they are happy with the way things are handled here.

Chief Brady talked about the recent illnesses of full time FF/EMT and how he was able to cover shifts because our on-call people are so willing to help which saves the District money because the on-call rate is so much lower than the overtime would have been. Even if people couldn't cover an entire shift they came in when they could and everyone worked it out so the entire shift was covered. He stated that he doesn't feel that type of thing gets recognized enough by the Prudential Committee because they don't see it.

#### **Treasurer Discussion Items**

B. Miller requested a motion to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund into the Admin. Contracts to pay the Odyssey Advisors, Inc invoice for the OPEB Actuarial Study.

R. Constant made a motion to transfer funds from the PC Reserve Fund no. 001-129-5400-5414 into the Admin. Contracts account number 001-122-5400-5403 to pay the Odyssey Advisors, Inc invoice. R. Lak Second. Motion passed unanimously.

T. Calkins stated that he wished to clarify for the PC that the truck being purchased by District 1 is not a Quint, he stated that the NFPA will rate the truck as a ladder, the water tank is only 100 gallons. K. McKenna stated that he was told just last night by K. Taugher that they were purchasing a Quint. There was a short discussion about the truck.

Chief Brady stated that we were called to District 1 90 times last year. K. McKenna asked if that was a burden. Chief Brady said that it was not especially since we have seen a large decrease in nuisance calls, when asked why, he responded that they do trainings at the college now which has reduced the calls significantly. Also fire prevention is doing good work educating people and businesses as to the reasons behind the code enforcement which has increased compliance.

R. Lak noted that the minutes had not been approved.

A motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2018 made by R. Constant, second by R. Lak.; the motion passed unanimously.

- The next regular District meeting will be February 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
- Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

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