



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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

June 4, 2019

Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:05 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:08 p.m.

Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna

Members: James Menard and Kenneth LeBlanc

South Hadley District #2: Chief Scott Brady

Asst. Chief Todd Calkins

Treasurer Barbara Miller

Others Present:

Linda Young

Collin Mick

Joel Prough

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna. He announced that the meeting is being recorded.

J. Menard made a motion to approve the minutes of April 2, 2019, motion seconded by K. McKenna. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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

Chief Brady, Report

Chief Brady provided the monthly report for May with 48 calls, stating the department is 43 calls ahead of last year's call rate. They are working on E2 and E4 repairs, starting with E2; it's the primary response vehicle. Brakes on E2 is the first item based on annual preventative maintenance (PM) recommendations. T. Calkins explained that the PM company recommended brakes and some pins be repaired locally, due to difficulty getting parts. Quality Fleet was able to adjust the back brakes but the front brakes will need replacement. Vehicle is scheduled to go to Quality Fleet, they will take off parts and go to Bridgeport CT to a fleet place that does brake liners and parts. If they can't find parts, they will spec them. Hopefully they can find parts and the truck will be back in a couple of days, worst case scenario the parts may have to be made or machined or something. J. Menard questioned if the PM company was Greenwood. T. Calkins replied in the affirmative. J. Menard asked why we aren't using Five Star. T. Calkins stated they were trying to keep the work local, where it will save money. Discussion regarding why we are not using Five Star as voted at the July 17th meeting. Chief Brady said if that's 100% what they want. K. McKenna asked Chief Brady why the decision to do the work with companies other than Five Star wasn't discussed with the board. J. Menard said we should have all the work done with Five Star, that way it's all on them. Chief Brady said Five Star also recommended the tires be done. K. McKenna said they only recommended it. Chief Brady asked if we were doing what is recommended, K. McKenna responded that we need communication. K. LeBlanc asked if we had estimates. T. Calkins explained the PM is broken down into two blocks: time and material (because uncertain) or a breakdown of approximate cost. I.E. Steering box on E4 is leaking it's \$3,500 to \$4,000 (worst case), the brakes are time and material because a lot of it is unforeseen.

PC Chair Discussion Items

K. McKenna read a note from Priscilla Ryan thanking District 2 for the dedication of the Annual Report in honor of Attorney Ed Ryan. He thanked B. Miller for her efforts creating the report.

K. McKenna asked Chief Brady if he had anything further to report. Chief Brady said, based on the work that is going to have to be done on the engines this year he recommends the PC move toward a Special District Meeting so that the District tax payers can make a decision on the purchase of replacement vehicles for engine 4 immediately and plans for engine 2's replacement in the near future. K. McKenna asked the PC if there were any comments. J. Menard repeated that Chief said Five Star recommended the tires and asked Chief Brady if that was something he was going to do. Chief Brady acknowledged that he was, J. Menard asked if that was E2 and if they had a dollar amount. Chief Brady replied both engines at a cost of five or six thousand dollars. T. Calkins said tires would come from Rucki's in Holyoke.

J. Menard stated that we should put together a summary of the needs with vehicle replacement costs and hopefully how we are going to fund it. The water department has their list which includes pipes and things that may never be done, but they have the costs. They aren't funded but at least they have a dollar amount. Stating that he needs a hard copy; the Chief can make recommendations then the PC can look at it. K. McKenna said he is not in favor of it, the primary reason being that the Chief is talking about spending thousands of dollars for the engines to be repaired and he was told by Five Star that with maintenance we can continue to use them. A lengthy discussion continued with B. Miller emphasizing the need to develop a plan to replace vehicles including the ambulance we just bought, stating that we need to project 20 years into the future. K. LeBlanc said that having a plan is always the best way to go. K. McKenna stated that if we are going that route then he wants a full feasibility study including salaries, benefits, retirement and OPEB costs. Adding that the taxpayers have taken on the additional costs of fulltime coverage and the dispatch expense. B. Miller emphasized the need to get beyond the angst, come up with a plan, hash it out, and have something to refer back to. There was discussion regarding the two prior votes for fire trucks which failed to meet the 2/3 majority. K. McKenna stated that he had recommended a small attack vehicle that holds 300 gallons and costs 250 to 275 thousand. The discussion ended with confirmation from Chief Brady that he would provide the report requested by J. Menard. K. McKenna requested a report from the Treasurer stating what the District can afford, how much money we have, how many bonds we have, and her recommendation.

Treasurer Report and Discussion Items

Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) Update – B. Miller stated that there had been a press release that the HCOG had plans to cease operations. This update was to inform everyone that the HCOG ceasing operations will not affect the Group Insurance Trust. She read an excerpt from an email received from the HCGIT Executive Committee:

“The authors of the insurance trust agreement signed by member governmental units wisely contained a continuation or succession clause that allows the orderly continuation of the insurance trust. The agreement states that should the Board of Hampshire Council of Governments dissolve the Insurance Advisory Committee shall immediately become vested with the powers of governance for the Trust. The intent of this clause was for the business of the Trust to continue without disruption. The insurance director and the Executive Committee are well prepared for this transition.”

OPEB Trust Update – B. Miller stated that she is working with Attorney O'Toole on the Trust Agreement. They met and discussed their individual concerns. Attorney O'Toole will update the document and she hopes to meet with him again within the next two weeks.

Elmer Brook Committee Update

J. Menard stated that there had been a beautiful article in the Town Reminder by Walter Hamilton giving a good explanation of the solar farm and where we are at. The main push is to get someone from Tighe and Bond, the environmental person to get involved and help us with the questions we have and maybe help us devise an RFP. It's worthwhile to determine the value of the land.

Paid Family Medical Leave Act

K. McKenna asked what we do currently for family leave. Chief Brady responded that most of our employees have been here long enough that they have accrued sick leave. J. Menard asked if sick leave is paid out at retirement. Chief Brady responded that it is not. J. Menard asked if there is a policy stating that, B. Miller responded that there is. B. Miller stated that if a municipality wishes to participate in the Paid Family Medical Leave Act, they must vote to opt in.

Written Response to ADM Questions - K. McKenna stated that B. Miller had emailed a letter (attached) to the PC members for their review, which is in response to questions J. Prough had asked at the annual district meeting. K. McKenna provided Mr. Prough with a copy of the letter and offered to read it aloud. J. Prough said, that was not necessary. He said he appreciated the PC responding to his questions.

For additional details, video recordings of the meetings may be viewed upon request.

- The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____