



## PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

### FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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

August 20, 2019

#### Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:03 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:40 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:

Joseph Fernandez

Mike Cote

Linda Young

Mike O'Neill

Chrysanthi Gavagan

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 June 4, 2019 and July 9, 2019, motion seconded by K. LeBlanc. 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 reported that there were 49 calls in the month of July. The calls are tracking higher than last year with 472 calls this year and last year we were at 441. The increase includes increases within the District and an increase in mutual aid requests including Chicopee, Granby and District 1. Discussion regarding the details of the reporting and how it is reported to the state.

#### PC Chair Discussion Items

- K. McKenna read a letter to Select Board (attached) requesting the parking in the area in front of the fire station, near the fire hydrants, be reserved for Fire District activity.
- K. McKenna read a notice from M. Sullivan requesting attendance at a forum on Wednesday, September 18 at 6 pm, at the town hall. Attorney Lisa Mead of Mead, Talermin and Costa, LLC, Town Council, will present on the following topics: Board Responsibilities, Open Meeting Law and Developing Board Policies.
- Bid Award for the old ambulance/rescue vehicle – The vehicle was advertised on Municibid with a minimum bid of \$1,000. The final bid amount was \$4,350, from Angelina Tiberio of Youngstown Ohio. She would like to register the vehicle before she flies out here to pick it up. B. Miller stated that she is not comfortable sending her the title until we have payment for the vehicle. T. Calkins will explain this to her and work out the details.

J. Menard made a motion to accept Angelina Tiberio's bid of \$4,350 for the 1994 Ford Ranger 350, K. LeBlanc second. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

- J. Menard discussed his Fire Department Vehicle Stabilization Schedule (attached) requesting \$30,000 each for E2 and E4 and \$5,000 for the utility vehicle. Totalling \$65,000 to be added to the Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund and included in the annual budget for the future vehicle replacement schedule. Chief stated concern that the replacement costs are dramatically low, based on a baseline 3% inflationary rate from one year to the next in fire engine and apparatus pricing. J. Menard asked Chief "in a perfect world, what would that \$30,000 be?" Chief responded \$50,000, adding that 95 to 98% of fire apparatus is purchased on lease to own programs, with much lower interest rates. J. Menard said that's a next step, first he wants to get a commitment toward funding stabilization. B. Miller stated that she feels an incremental increase should be included in the plan. Based on the Chiefs projection of 3% inflation and the acknowledgement that the \$30,000 should be higher she recommended a 5% increase each year. K. LeBlanc asked for clarification of the goal, when to purchase a truck. Some discussion of options. J. Menard stated that he would like to have approval of the dollar amounts on this plan and then start talking about vehicles; when, what kind, how. K. McKenna stated that he wanted a mini-pumper added to that list to be talked about for the future. He met with Chief Mitchell of Granby, they just purchased one for \$300,000 and he spoke with Chris at Five Star who indicated both trucks are in very, very good condition [E4, E1], he thought, if we're lucky we might get \$30,000 or \$40,000 in trade for E4. K. McKenna stated that the Chief is in charge of running his department, and he thoroughly understands that, but the PC is getting complaints about running the ambulance to fires. He thinks we could take \$250,000 from stabilization and buy a mini-pumper brand new. It pumps 1,500 gallons a minute; it could be used for an attack piece for fires, for investigations, for anything. That would leave a balance in stabilization, we could then build the account up using J. Menard's plan and a few years down the road, we would have more money for a purchase and there would be no debt service to the public.
- K. McKenna stated that he had a meeting with the auditor and he said that we should not be going over 6%, at the high end of our budget, we are now at 5.85% that's not counting the Water Dept. paying half of the building. The building will be paid off in 2026, we have the retirement fund \$26,000 at this point he feels we'll be putting it strictly on the backs of the taxpayers. Dispatch costs are hurting us. He will be asking in the next budget to have all dispatch costs be put on the fire side of the budget; ambulance should not be paying for dispatch. He would also like the board to support reaching out again to District 1 and the Town of South Hadley for help with our dispatch. He asked for a motion to have the Chief go out and visit both of these two people and ask one more time if they would be interested and bring back some information with a written report and the PC will take it from there. Chief Brady said that he has spoken with Al Wishart, the college, the prior police chief, this police chief, Chief Authier, multiple times; he'd be happy to do it again. Adding that there is a possibility that Chief Gunderson is open to doing some regionalization projects. K. McKenna stated that T. Scanlon does not recommend a 20-year bond. B. Miller responded that she was recommending 10- or 15-year bonds. Adding when they were going for the quint, she used 20-years because that is how the college was doing its payments.
- K. McKenna expressed concern regarding replacement of the aging generator and the need for a replacement to be outside on a pad. Chief Brady stated, the last estimate was \$45,000.
- K. McKenna reiterated his interest in the mini-pumper. Discussion followed regarding ambulance first on scene vs. the mini-pumper. T. Calkins asked that they discuss the lease at \$40,000 a year. J. Menard questioned the procedure if the ambulance goes out first. Chief Brady responded that the ambulance goes out with two (one in the ambulance, with the on-call person arriving approximately 2 minutes later), they both have gear, they have forcible

entry tools, water cans and fire extinguishers, they can put out an incipient fire, they can affect a rescue, they can give a good scene size up, and that changes our response. Adding that when the ambulance is there it is not an ambulance it's an instant command vehicle, the whole left-hand side is for firefighting and rescue; it is the best use of our resources.

- J. Menard requested approval of the Fire Department Stabilization schedule. Discussion regarding R-2 replacement with a four-door pick-up truck, at some point and eliminating the other one. J. Menard stated that it's not replacement at this point it's about setting a dollar amount for next year and then have it as a format to go further. B. Miller agreed, it is a good idea to get it in writing, stating, it is very difficult to increase numbers at budget season because the primary focus frequently becomes the tax rate. K. McKenna said that getting the dispatching down, to help the taxpayers, that's going to help us go along for the purchase of a truck. B. Miller stated that she feels it's important to make a plan so that we can stop talking about the monies to do these purchases coming from MHC and come up with a capital plan and then anything we get from MHC is extra. K. McKenna said he was thinking \$50,000. K. LeBlanc agreed we need a starting point and having an increase on an annual basis makes sense to him, certainly the option is there to increase it in the future.

T. Calkins asked that the inspection fees be added to this amount. There was discussion regarding how the funds are used currently. B. Miller explained that they are taken in and reported on the recap as estimated receipts which essentially reduces the tax rate. J. Menard said that he would like to take time to look at that because there is so much need here and only limited funds. T. Calkins stated that he hoped the PC would give them authority to bring someone in that's a professional with leasing the fire truck because the money that's proposed in the schedule would pay for the lease and we'd have a kitty every year that could go into fire truck stabilization for engine 2's replacement. He further said that there are people doing homework to help, not to hinder. Chief Brady said we always have a truck committee to constantly keep a truck spec'd. T. Calkins said if we could just get together and have the guy talk about the mini-pumper and have Pierce talk about the rescue truck and have someone talk about a standard pump, it's all information for all of us to take in. If we could get a rescue pump and not have to change Engine 2 for years down the road, we could get a plan on a lease for Engine 4's replacement. K. LeBlanc suggested they get a written proposal before the presentation.

J. Menard made a motion for \$65,000 plus a 5% increase annually for the Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund. Second by K. LeBlanc. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Menard made a motion to have Chief talk to the Town, Mike Sullivan, and the police and District 1 to try to eliminate ourselves from doing the dispatching. Second by K. LeBlanc. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

- T. Calkins said that there is a drain line running through our property that he believes is still owned by the Town of South Hadley that is causing a sink hole.
- T. Calkins provided a proposal from Yankee Glass to change the door at the bottom of the stairs at a cost of \$4,600.

J. Menard made a motion to approve the proposal from Yankee Glass to replace the door at the bottom of the stairs. K. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

- K. McKenna stated that during a meeting with Chief Mitchell in Granby he said that he couldn't have enough good things to say about this fire department and working closely together with them. And he just wanted them to know that. Chief Brady said that they have eliminated a lot of problems and are working very well together.

- K. McKenna said that he wants help from the board., he thinks it's time for someone else to pick up the torch regarding negotiations with MHC. K. LeBlanc asked if he wanted to discuss any details. K. McKenna said that he could take him over and introduce him. B. Miller said that she had offered in the past and would be happy to go over and get involved in the discussions with whichever member decides to take it over.
- T. Calkins stated that he has done research and UMass, Amherst College and he believes Hampshire College have a Fire and EMS line item in the paperwork to new students. He realizes Ken has worked with MHC and he appreciates what they've done for this District. If MHC had a \$50 line item to students for Fire and EMS, with 2,200 students it would be about a hundred thousand dollars per year. He acknowledged that they pay for ambulance but they don't pay for fire and they use approximately 33% of the budget. He feels it would be easier on the board members, the department and our taxpayers to know that the line existed as a fire and EMS fee. All the negotiation would go away, and relieve tension. K. LeBlanc asked for documentation that could be reviewed.
- During discussion to set the next meeting date it was determined that the PC would meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

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

- The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

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