



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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November 12, 2019

Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:00 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

Francis DeToma, Water Commissioner

Others Present:

Jason Henske

Ryan Moore

John Moriarty

Brian Fay

Mike O'Neill

Pat Davis

Joe Lajoie

Collin Mick

Sam Bernash

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 October 8, 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 introduced Jason Henske from Pierce who was asked to attend the meeting to discuss the process of leasing fire apparatus. Chief stated that a committee, led by FF O'Neill, has spec'd a truck that they would like to purchase. J. Henske explained that the lease to purchase is probably the most common way to purchase at this time. Municipal lease purchase is the equivalent of financing the vehicle, it is not a turn in program. It's viewed differently and doesn't affect bond rating because it's a payment that is budgeted and approved annually, rather than a fixed obligation, like a bond. J. Menard said that it doesn't affect the bond rating but it does affect the amount of debt you have as a municipality. Interest rates are low, under 3%, which is less than the current annual percentage of the price increase on the spec'd vehicle. J. Menard expressed the benefits of paying cash for a vehicle, asking if there was a lower priced vehicle option. There was discussion regarding expense to maintain the current vehicles vs. annual price increases to vehicle. J. Henske stated the financing options can be very flexible, specific to the community's needs. Chief Brady asked J. Henske to speak to where the departments spec'd vehicle falls within the spectrum of vehicles available. He stated that average price is between \$550,000 and \$800,000. Some options on the spec'd vehicle are designed to make the vehicle last longer i.e. hot dipped galvanized frame rails to make them impervious to corrosion, heavier duty front and rear suspension, rated brakes. J. Menard asked if there was a trade in value included

with the price. J. Henske stated that a 1991 vehicle, unless it were sold to a smaller department, which may be tough, frankly the vehicle has scrap value, \$3,000 and the 1997 is a little better but still low. He has brokers that can help sell the truck if we wanted to sell it independently, and get double the amount we would get in trade. K. McKenna stated that the mechanic said there are communities that would be interested, considering we've spent roughly \$25,000 on each vehicle. K. McKenna asked for a price on the mini pumper. J. Henske stated that they are roughly \$300,000 but suggested caution regarding a mini pumper. The biggest issue is payload and longevity. K. McKenna stated that we are currently going to fires with an ambulance and he has a hard time with that. Chief Brady provided a lengthy description of the response process with the ambulance as the first vehicle on scene as incident command vehicle. There was discussion regarding a fire in Amherst. Chief Brady offered to show the PC how the ambulance is rigged up and said that he would love to have the PC members come to a drill and see how they operate and how they function using the equipment they currently have. There was discussion regarding NFPA standards and whether an ambulance can be an incident command vehicle and how ambulances are equipped in other communities. J. Moriarty stated when the ambulance was first brought on it was a financial decision to put the ambulance on scene first to keep it in service 24/7 and get every possible ambulance call to bring in the maximum amount of revenue from the ambulance. There was additional discussion regarding cash purchase vs finance and future needs. J. Henske stated that he is a salaried salesman and therefore earns the same amount whether he sells a mini pumper or a full-size fire pumper. He cautioned against expecting one or two people to make a fire attack on a truck with 250 gallons of water; it's a great tool but frankly he fears looking at it the way they are may be shooting themselves in the foot. There was discussion regarding warranties of the vehicle and service. There was discussion regarding timing of commitment and the discount. B. Miller asked if we could sign the commitment prior to the price increase but not start production until after we have commitment from District meeting. J. Henske responded that he could inquire if it's possible to extend production that long.

Chief Brady, Report

K. McKenna stated that he was absent last meeting but that the board had previously voted to get a written report from the Chief on the dispatching. Chief Brady stated that he spoke with Chief Gunderson who spoke with Chief Wishart; there's no interest in Granby. Chief Gunderson said they would have to add a second dispatcher and she had concerns with merging with Granby because they would have to staff an officer at the station to man the front door. Chief Authier has been reached out to, they would be willing to talk about it, but there is really nowhere to go at this point. Another option to approach something like the Chicopee regionalization which is moving forward; the only problem with that is the delay in dispatching time because the PCAP call would have to be transferred from South Hadley to Chicopee. Chicopee has picked up Longmeadow; East Longmeadow and Ludlow have talked about joining. The new facility is ramped up to take a lot more than it currently has but they are having problems staffing. J. Menard said he was speaking with M. Sullivan regarding something else and brought this up, at some point he will speak with him further. Chief offered to speak with him regarding their operational needs. K. McKenna stated his concern is that Chief Brady was asked to reach out to the police and he did and they asked him to reach out to Chief Authier and he called him once and never got back to him, 63 days ago. Chief Brady stated that he called him and his call was never returned, and he spoke with Chief Gunderson and he spoke with Chief Gunderson about her conversation with Chief Authier. K. McKenna asked if he didn't think that our best opportunity was with District 1. The police station is the PCAP so they have to take the calls and they have to distribute the calls. What's wrong with District 1 gets the call and they shoot it. Chief Brady responded the only problem is they leave their station unstaffed more frequently. K. McKenna said he would be meeting with Chairman Perron tomorrow to get a feel for how he feels about it. FF Fay stated that when you're on the ambulance running with lights and sirens you need assistance, tracking times,

calling for additional resources etc. Chief Brady said that if we can maintain the same level of safety, with 24/7 coverage by combining resources and pooling money; knowing that there will be somebody somewhere on the radio then he's all for it. T. Calkins said we need to put all costs on the table and sit with the Town and work together. K. McKenna said, he thinks, we should start with getting the two Districts together first. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the current radio operation and the different options and funding sources. K. McKenna stated that he wanted it made clear that the performance of the people doing the dispatching now is outstanding, there are concerns with it being done from the house but there's no problem with the performance.

The Chief's monthly incident report was provided in the packet each PC member received, there was no discussion.

PC Chair Discussion Items

J. Menard provided an update from the Elmer Brook Committee, including the report from Baystate Forestry Service. The property consists of 83% white pine which and has not been maintained and is not particularly valuable. If we don't do the solar farm the forester will help us determine what should be done, the forester suggests taking big plots of a half-acre and stripping them to allow for new growth because any young growth is currently being destroyed due to shading. A copy of the report was sent to the Water Superintendent. J. Menard sent a copy to Tighe and Bond, they will work on an RFP for a possible solar development project. K. LeBlanc questioned harvest value. J. Menard said with 20 to 25 acres and some tall oaks within the 200-foot buffer that are close to homes and may need to be removed, there is some value but the cost to remove the stumps may eat up any profit from harvesting. If it is developed into a solar farm we wouldn't get involved, the developer would handle it.

Treasurer Report and Discussion Items

B. Miller reported that she attended a Human Resources Training and purchased a \$500 on-line program, Be Audit Secure, Help Desk Suite Compliance Tool, which will assist in creating a policy manual and can assist in creating job descriptions. It also includes assistance with legal questions and updates regarding court cases and changes to laws.

Recording ended.

There was discussion regarding any progress in K. LeBlanc and B. Miller meeting with Kevin McCaffrey from Mount Holyoke College. K. LeBlanc stated that we had been waiting for K. McKenna's return. K. McKenna said that he would make a call to K. McCaffrey.

List of Documents

Lease Purchase Financing Proposal from All American Investment Group, LLC
Chief Brady Report for 10/1/2019 thru 10/31/2019
Forest Stand Assessment, Elmer Brook Parcel by Bay State Forestry Service

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

- The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____