



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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February 26, 2019

Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:45 p.m.

Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna

Members: Richard Constant and James Menard

South Hadley District #2: Chief Scott Brady

Asst. Chief Todd Calkins

Treasurer Barbara Miller

Frank DeToma Water Commissioner

Others Present:

Brian Fay

Sam Lemanski

Pat Davis

Chrysanthi Gavagan

John Moriarty

Scott Libby

Sam Bernash

Joel Prough

Ryan Moore

Mike O'Neill

Joe Fernandes

Linda Young

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna

Chairman McKenna announced that the Fire Chief has informed him that the meeting will be recorded via an audio and video recording device.

Payroll and Vendor Warrants were reviewed by J. Menard 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.

Chairman McKenna stated that he would allow time for attendees to speak, before they begin the budget review.

- T. Calkins stated that B. Miller had completed the Hampden Zimmerman credit application for bay lighting purchase and they should be installed within the next week or two.

Budget Review

K. McKenna stated that they would review each line item in the Fire Department and Ambulance budgets. Highlights of the discussion are as follows:

Fire Department Budget

- R. Constant, regarding the OT and shift coverage line item, asked who is covering shifts. Chief Brady responded that T. Calkins sometimes covers day shifts, if he can't cover, on-call members who are trained for shift coverage are called upon first at their regular straight time rate, then if necessary, a full-time person will be brought in to cover shifts at time and a half. R. Constant questioned \$154,163 budget amount when only \$93,427 was spent in the prior year. Chief Brady stated that there is no way to determine how many and what types of calls there will be throughout the year. Adding that in an organization this small, one incident can have a large impact on the expense line.

- R. Constant stated that the Repair and Maintenance line has been increased to \$40,000; we went through the vehicles and they are up to snuff, why the increase. Chief Brady responded with the age of the vehicles, repairs often reveal additional problems. Example E4 went in for repair of a bent valve handle. It was determined that the valve needed to be replaced which revealed corrosion of the pipes. The annual pressure tests are done at very high pressure and are likely to bring out more issues. As E2 ages it will have similar issues to those of E4. Chief Brady stated that he believed the tires should be replaced. R. Constant said that the Chief had provided an assessment which stated E4 needed \$100,000 in repairs but Five Star said it was in good shape after \$11,000 in repairs. Chief Brady stated that the \$100,000 was for a full rehab. R. Constant said that the Chief repeats at every meeting the need for tires but he isn't sure we need to spend all that money.
- R. Constant asked what expenses come out of the Chiefs Expense line. Chief Brady responded that it is used to purchase food for stand by and drills also for awards and to purchase uniforms for high performing on-call people, the chiefs cell phone reimbursement and meetings.
- J. Menard noted that the equipment expense line was reduced from \$12,000 to \$10,000. Chief Brady responded that they had been able to purchase hose, nozzles and thermal imaging cameras at the end of last year which caught us up a lot. He added that there are still some things that they need: gas powered air generator, replace gas meter etc. (See Explanation of Budget Changes by Line Item 5400-5417) Chief Brady stated that the MHC Gift Acct will be used exclusively to replace aging SCBA bottles and Bunker Gear.
- There was a question regarding the Physicals/Health line item. Chief Brady explained changes to OSHA requirements. He also explained that there are certain types of cancers which are considered line of duty, which would be an expense to the District; steps need to be taken to reduce this risk.
- R. Constant questioned the 100% buffer in the Training line item. Chief Brady stated that we have been fortunate, in that, we've had access to free wood and the FFs volunteer their time, also expired fire extinguishers are donated and used for trainings. Recently some of the FFs volunteered and built a sample structure for a controlled burn with the free wood. He said that we can not count on donations and some years we may need to spend money on these things.

Ambulance Budget

- Chief Brady stated that the Pay Per Call line item increase is due to the projected increase in call volume. The national standard is five to ten percent. He is expecting a five percent increase.
- K. McKenna stated the increase to Ambulance Intercepts line item is based on District 1 rate increase.
- R. Constant asked for an explanation of outside services. Chief Brady responded that OEMS requires a review of all calls. Glen Davis has done this, as his profession out east for years, and performs an independent review of every one of our calls and reports to Lt. Moore, who reports to OEMS then down to personnel.

Funding Source Review

B. Miller provided the PC members with the funding source spreadsheet, there was a brief discussion. R. Constant recommend they each take time to review the budget and then at the next meeting make recommendations for tightening some items.

K. McKenna asked F. DeToma where the Water Commissioners were in the budget process. F. DeToma responded that they were at about the same point as the PC. They are looking at approximately a 4% increase and said that M. Aiken had included a 2% COLA as a place keeper in the budget but no % had been voted upon.

K. McKenna stated that he has deep concerns about OPEB, adding that it is important to begin fully funding it.

J. Prough asked how much of the 2019 budget comes from MHC. R. Constant responded that we have an agreement with MHC of a \$20,000 gift toward equipment each year, we also have an agreement for \$20,000 annually toward the ambulance bond payment for ten years. He further stated that they offered \$400,000 (\$20,000 for 20 years) for an engine but it was voted down at ADM. K. McKenna said that, by law, they do not have to give anything; stating that the board is looking into other avenues as the annual gift of \$20,000 agreement will be up next year. J. Prough asked, without this fire station, how much higher would the colleges insurance costs be, he guesses \$200,000 to \$400,000. Adding that since they get a large insurance savings and give us little; as a taxpayer he thinks they should pay their fair share. R. Constant stated that at one time they gave us nothing, we've made progress. K. McKenna stated that he meets with them regularly and is working with them to provided dispatching. There was discussion about the meetings with MHC. J. Prough volunteered to attend the meetings, K. McKenna said that he has every right to go over and talk with them. J. Prough asked if he could say on behalf of D2. K. McKenna said no. R. Constant encouraged him to run for PC if he wished to represent the taxpayers. L. Young said we used to have meetings with the college here, but they came once and saw the press, and said they don't meet in a public forum and left the meeting.

T. Calkins stated that this building is similar to the engines, it was built in 1963 and it's getting old, the generator is from 1972.

R. Constant recommended that B. Miller check in with M. Sullivan about meeting to discuss the election.

The next regular Prudential Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____