



## PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

### FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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

November 13, 2018

#### Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:20 p.m.

#### Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna

Members: Richard Constant and James Menard

South Hadley District #2: Chief Scott Brady

Treasurer Barbara Miller

Francis DeToma, Water Commissioner

#### Others Present:

Todd Calkins  
Ryan Moore  
Sam Lemanski  
Mike Cote

Darienne DeWalt  
Chrysanthi Gavagan  
Linda Young  
Mary Di Buono  
Mike O'Neill

SHFD2  
Mike Wozniak  
Robert Authier  
Tom Stark  
James Pula

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna

R. Constant made a motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2018, motion seconded by J. Menard. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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.

**M. Wozniak, Prudential Committee Chair District 1,** requested permission to ask a few questions regarding the District 2 minutes of September 18, 2018. He began by reading an excerpt from the minutes. "J. Menard was asked if he had written his Vision. He said that he had not; stating that he wished to rely on the people that run it to figure it out." M. Wozniak asked J. Menard who he thinks "runs it" further stating that the whole idea is that this is a starting point, his thought was to get every one's thoughts and ideas, he was looking for input from everyone on the PC. J. Menard responded stating that there are many areas to be considered, he agrees with the merge but does not feel he has the expertise to determine what that merged district should look like. M. Wozniak read from the minutes "F. DeToma said that there are serious cultural and operational differences that need to be carefully studied and he wouldn't want a vote unless the people are very well informed of these very complex issues." F. DeToma responded that there are serious differences including the union, the different water sources, the water department in D1 in a separate building from fire, he further stated that perhaps cultural is too strong but there are differences and people must be informed of the differences, it can't be imposed, it needs to be discussed. R. Constant stated that no one is imposing, and there are differences but just because they don't mesh perfectly doesn't mean we can't explore it. If both Districts agree it will go to a study. M. Wozniak read from the minutes "S. Lemanski stated that he doesn't think the we've recognized that the document received at the last meeting was disrespectful to us." S. Lemanski responded that the vision received from District 1 used a great

deal of how things are done in District 1 and very little consideration of how things are done up here. M. Wozniak stated that it wasn't sent out to be disrespectful it was a layout of what a merged district might look like. M. Wozniak read another excerpt from the minutes "R. Constant responded that he believes M. Wozniak has talked with D1 Water but he hasn't heard back from him yet. F. DeToma said that D1 has not approached the D2 WC but we could certainly begin that." M. Wozniak stated that his concentration is on the Fire before looking at the water side. He read an additional excerpt from the minutes "C. Gavagon stated that it is important to point out the two cultures. The fear is that we will lose the call force in D2 and possibly D1." C. Gavagan responded that D1 has a union and many of our on-call people would not be able to work on-call in D1 because they are full time FF in communities with unions and therefore can't go to a station with a different union. Further stating that the plan from D1 includes all paramedics; where does that leave our full time people; as Sam said, it looks more like D1 takes over and dissolves D2. M. Wozniak stated that his main concern is saving the town money and there will be difficult decisions to be made. J. Menard stated the problem he sees is the lack of transparency; there should be posted meetings which would alleviate some of this. It should be open, even in the preliminary discussion. J. Menard stated that he has only been on the PC for a short time and does not have the knowledge to make those decisions. M. Wozniak stated that he has also been on the board less than two years. M. Wozniak stated that he has been pushing for a joint meeting. R. Constant acknowledged that there is a lot to think about. K. McKenna stated that everything he has received, he has read aloud at a meeting, as Chair and we need to work together. Chief Brady stated that he thinks it is being looked at strictly financial, we need to look at fire safety and what do we want it to look like in South Hadley and our portion of Granby. M. Wozniak stated that part of the problem has been the tax rate differential, the new engine in D1 is likely to add 34 cents to the tax rate which probably is the closest the two have ever been; the voters of D1 and D2 won't vote for it unless there is savings. Chief Brady stated that all stakeholders must be considered, what does fire and EMS look like in this shared vision and then figure out what that would cost. K. McKenna stated that all they are trying to do is get a start, we can't get it started with all these rumors. Chief Authier stated that vision six includes increased staffing in District 2 with two fulltime up here. F. DeToma stated that he feels both boards agree there would be a study. Lt. Moore stated that he thinks this, is the start they have been talking about with officers from both Districts discussing it. M. Wozniak said that the next District 1 meeting of the Prudential Committee is November 29<sup>th</sup>. K. McKenna asked Mr. Wozniak if he had any further questions. M. Wozniak responded that the only other item was the requested data. B. Miller provided him with a packet and he left the meeting.

B. Miller explained the packet of information provided to M. Wozniak stating that she would like District 1 to provide the same information to her. Adding that she felt she should have the opportunity to review District 1 data in order to review conclusions that are to be presented at a future District Meeting. Chief Authier said that he would pass on her request.

#### **Fire Chief Report and Discussion Items**

Chief Brady provided the incident report for the month of October. He stated that Engine 4 would be going to Five Star for two weeks to have all the work that Five Star recommends with the exception of the tires and Engine 2 will go to Bulldog at the end of the year for maintenance and body work.

#### **Treasurer's Report and Discussion Items**

##### **Stated owned Land**

B. Miller provided a copy of the Town of South Hadley Estimated Cherry Sheet and State Owned Land Values for FY2019, explaining that the town receives money for reimbursable state owned land. The amount for FY2019 is over \$28,000. She said that she considered how many services the town provides for this land and the emergency services the District provides. There is no

provision in the law for Districts to receive State Owned Land reimbursement. She suggests sending a letter to the Town requesting a portion of the Town's state owned land monies be paid to District 2. Chief Brady stated that he could provide historical data of. The Prudential Committee agreed, B. Miller will draft a letter to be approved by the PC.

### **Cyber Insurance**

B. Miller stated that Bruce Piquette of Metras Insurance asked her if we would be interested in Cyber Insurance in light of the significant loss of data experienced by District 1. She said that she had contacted Suite 3 and was informed that our vulnerability is low due to a firewall and antivirus software. According to Suite 3 the cost to restore from a backup would be approximately \$1,200. That combined with the cost of a new server would be barely more than the \$5,000 deductible. B. Miller stated that she did not recommend the cyber insurance, the Prudential Committee members agreed.

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

#### **Ambulance**

Lt. Moore stated that Stryker is having an end of year sale and the cost of the loader for the new ambulance is even lower than it was at the time of the last discussion. B. Miller said the issue remains that the vote at ADM did not include sufficient funds to purchase the loader. K. McKenna suggested lease with the option to buy as a way to get the price now while giving us time to get additional funding at the next District meeting. There was discussion regarding the use of the MHC gift fund. Chief Brady stated that he had provided a plan which used those funds over the next several years to get the SCBAs and other equipment necessary to get into a purchasing schedule that keeps the equipment up to date. If money is used from that fund for the ambulance loader he will need additional money in the equipment maintenance budget line. J. Menard stated that the Elmer Brook Committee is planning an informational meeting in January and possibly a Special District Meeting in February, if that happens then maybe an article could be added for the ambulance loader.

#### **Election Update**

R. Constant stated that the election legislation is coming out of the Rules Committee today.

#### **Merger Update**

R. Constant read the last paragraph of the "To Merge or Not to Merge?" letter has it had been revised:

"In summary, in 2018, we are in a unique position to revisit the merging of the two districts. In that regard, we are recommending that an outside independent agency be retained to conduct a thorough financial and operational study of merging the two Districts with a concentration on identifying potential long-term cost savings. Money for this study would have to be voted on by both Districts, sharing the costs equally. Moving forward, a formal sub-committee will be formed with both districts participating in further merger discussions. Meeting notices of sub-committee meetings will be posted in both districts in order to gain public input and to comply with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law."

J. Menard asked if the PC was going to sign the letter. R. Constant responded that District 1 PC has not agreed to sign it. Further stating that B. Miller had provided M. Wozniak with the additional information they had requested.

- The next regular District meeting will be Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
- Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

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