



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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

October 16, 2018

Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:33 p.m.

Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna

Members: James Menard

Absent: Richard Constant

South Hadley District #2: Chief Scott Brady

Asst. Chief Todd Calkins

Treasurer Barbara Miller

Others Present:

Mike O'Neill

Ryan Moore

Linda Young

Mike Cote

William Selkirk

Darienne DeWalt

Mary Beth O'Meara

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna

J. Menard made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2018, second by K. McKenna. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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

Fire Chief Report and Discussion Items

Chief Brady provided the Breakdown and Detailed Breakdown by Major Incident Types for the month of September (attached). He stated that there has been an increase in calls with the return of students to MHC. He further stated that 11 of the calls were District 1 and 4 were Granby. T. Calkins stated that the first page of the report is posted on District 2's facebook page each month.

K. McKenna read a thankyou letter from Wayne & Sandi Buckhout (copy attached) and congratulated Asst. Chief Calkins, FF P. Davis and FF C. Gavagan for their fine work.

Treasurer's Report and Discussion Items

B. Miller provided a Quarterly Expense report as well as a three-year history of the Aggregate Salary Report which is required annually by the Hampshire County Retirement System (attached) and is used to determine the annual pension fund payment by the District. She stated that she created this report shortly after a conversation with Ken regarding whether or not the wages being paid had reduced since the reduction of one position when G. Curtis retired. She indicated that this was a snapshot in time as the report is created based on the payroll as of Sept. 30th. The packet provided includes the instructions as to how the data is to be compiled. She stated that the reports show a reduction of \$84,862 in the PC side from calendar 2016 to 2017 and an increase of less than \$15,000 from calendar 2017 to 2018. Thereby indicating that even if the

\$84,000 reduction between 2016 and 2017 was, in part, due to retirement and delay in filling positions the fact that the increase between 2017 and 2018 was under \$15,000 shows that there has been a reduction. The report only includes the wages (without overtime) for members of the Hampshire County Retirement (all fulltime and some on-call) and is, therefore, not a complete picture but it is a number captured using the same formula each year and is therefore worthy of consideration. J. Menard asked why there were only three years provided. B. Miller explained that prior to these three years she had used the prior treasurer's spreadsheet and it was not broken down the same.

B. Miller stated that she had researched the payments from Fire to Water as reimbursement to the water dept. payroll acct. for water dept. employees who assist with fire calls during regular business hours. The payments by year totaled: 2016 - \$729.21, 2015 - \$670.32 and 2014 - \$288.74. B. Miller said that Chief Brady and Water Superintendent M. Aiken had discussed the amounts and agreed that the fire employees assist the water department with mowing and clearing fire hydrants after snow storms etc. and therefore have agreed that the payments from fire to water are not necessary. K. McKenna stated that he thinks it is important that the taxpayers are aware that the water department employees are trained fire fighter EMTs as well. He stated that during the day with the three water dept. employees, the Chief, Asst. Chief and the one full-time FF/EMT on duty we have nearly as much coverage as District 1. T. Calkins stated that we are one of only a few that allow it. B. Miller stated that the payments from FD to WD are not seen by the taxpayers. Linda Young stated that as a water rate payer and a taxpayer she isn't concerned with the funds being transferred but does think it is important that people be made aware and requested that it be explained at the next Annual District Meeting.

PC Chair Report and Discussion Items

Elmer Brook Committee Update

J. Menard stated that he had spoken with Attorney O'Toole regarding the next steps for the Elmer Brook property. He provided an update and list of next steps:

RE: Solar Farm/Elmer Brook Committee

- Parcel 58/19 purchased February 1, 1911, Registry Book 665, page 63.
- Parcel 58/20 purchased August 31, 1916, Registry Book 730, page 329.
- Portion of Parcel 20 (frontage lots on Amherst Road) sold May 9, 1945, Registry Book 990, pages 336-337.
- Corrected May 9, 1945 deed, April 25, 1947, Registry Book 1016, pages 441-442.

The total 65 acres of parcels 19 & 20 were excluded from the 600+ acres that the District sold to the State back in the early 2000's.

- Parcel 19 is a 30-acre tract. It would be the committee's recommendation to sell it to the Kestrel Trust for permanent conservation. We have had conversations with a Kestrel representative and the South Hadley Bike Walk Committee. A portion of the property could be used for a trail access to Lithia Springs.
- Parcel 20, a 35-acre tract, is where the sub-committee proposes to develop a solar farm. The South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD) has given us the name of a solar developer, Todd Bard, who has provided some advice. He has indicated that we could develop 25 acres of parcel 20, installing up to 5 kilowatts of solar. The District's options would be to sell the power to SHELD, or to National Grid since we are on the South Hadley/Granby line.

Next Steps:

- Approval from both Boards to move to next steps
- Step 1 - Informational Meeting for the District

- Step 2 - Special District Meeting to Approve Solar Objective
- Step 3 - Develop a RFP for Solar Farm on Parcel 20 (25 acres)
- Step 4 - After Parcel 20 is complete Negotiate Deal-Parcel 19

J. Menard stated that the sub-committee recommends we develop it for a solar farm and is looking for approval to move ahead with the next steps recommended by Attorney O'Toole as listed. W. Selkirk stated that they are still trying to determine if parcel 20 is under Article 97. J. Menard stated that the benefits include the possibility of discounted electrical service and the rental income which is based on the number of megawatts (1-5) which could be as much as a \$40,000 to \$75,000 annual lease agreement. The letter which was provided to the PC at the last meeting has been sent to Rep. Scibak. J. Menard stated that he has had a conversation with Senator Humason who said they will all work together. J. Menard said that his question to the PC is when and if we should have a Special District Meeting. W. Selkirk said that for the antenna there was a separate meeting. K. McKenna said that we will have a lot of people with concerns and there should be a totally separate meeting on just this one issue. M. O'Meara said that in her experience she believes we get more money from Kestrel Land Trust than from the state. She said Kestrel may have more money and more volunteers to build the trail. J. Menard stated that he does not think we should do both at the same time [solar and sale of parcel 19].

J. Menard made a motion to approve the Elmer Brook Committee proceeding with:

- Step 1 - Informational Meeting for the District
 - Step 2 - Special District Meeting to Approve Solar Objective
 - Step 3 - Develop a RFP for Solar Farm on Parcel 20 (25 acres)
- Second by K. McKenna. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Red Hawk Fire & Security Inspection Report

Chief Brady explained that the Red Hawk Inspection Report is an annual inspection. The report was mentioned at a PC meeting last year as well. Each year, if necessary, they provide the service and repair agreement for any necessary repairs.

Basement Door

K. McKenna asked if for an update on repairs to the door. T. Calkins said that he is still waiting for an estimate from Colonial Carpentry, he doesn't want to go with Marois Construction as he feels the estimate is too high.

Vehicle Lettering and Ambulance

J. Menard asked about the vehicle lettering. T. Calkins stated that it is scheduled to be done next Wednesday. M. O'Neill said that the ambulance lettering is part of the quote. Chief Brady stated that the new ambulance is on order, the contracts have been signed and returned.

Election Update

B. Miller informed the PC that they had received the proposed legislation and email chain. She said that when there had been no response by Thursday, from either Rick Constant or Attorney O'Toole, to Rep. Scibak's email she contacted Attorney O'Toole. He explained that the email had gone to his "clutter" folder in his email. He immediately wrote a response to Rep. Scibak stating his approval of the proposed legislation. We do not anticipate any difficulty in getting it passed. B. Miller stated that she will need to work with M. Walton from District 1 to purchase or lease the tabulator once the legislation has been approved.

Engine 4

K. McKenna stated that he submitted the concerns from the Chief regarding E4 to Five Star and they are willing to do the requested work for \$6,575. Chief said it would be paid from the vehicle equipment account. K. McKenna said that after E4 we will need money for E2. He asked the Chief to get the date for repair and arrange for a temporary replacement. Chief Brady stated that he wished to point out that there was a majority in favor of the purchase of a new engine even though there was not enough for approval, also there was discussion that there would be a Special District Meeting for a new engine. K. McKenna stated that he did not wish to discuss that. Further stating that E2 has 20 failures we need to start working to get that repaired. J. Menard said that there is \$500,000 in the vehicle stabilization so we don't have enough to buy an engine, he stated the need to build up that account. He realizes we could bond for an engine but it would be better to have the funds available. Chief said that we are looking at 5% increases annually to the cost of a new engine. J. Menard said that he had been speaking with another community about a mini pumper. Chief stated that a mini pumper is not appropriate for District 2. He said they are used in communities to get water up rural roads quickly and they are not designed to pump from a hydrant. T. Calkins suggested, if interested, they will pull the books out and show him what trucks there are and what they do. Chief Brady stated that we want a basic fire and rescue pumper the small engine is not the right tool for the job. T. Calkins stated that A1 needs a little work and E2 has an oil pressure issue with permission of the PC he would like to call Five Star to come to the station.

To Merge or Not to Merge Letter

K. McKenna stated that he had been asked by R. Constant to read a letter at the meeting. He further stated that he did not intend to discuss it because he is not involved in the meetings and has no answers. (Letter attached) Chief Brady suggested the services of MARPA and the PVPC. There was discussion about the letter being "out there" for two weeks before the PC presented it to the employees. B. Miller stated that the PC is limited to the public meetings because they are not allowed to speak to each other about District issues unless they are at a posted meeting. M. O'Neill said that the PC needs to protect our District. He doesn't feel they are protecting the District when, after discussion about an engine there is talk about not wanting to take on debt. It seems they don't want the debt because it would be bad for the merger. J. Menard stated that he takes offense at that statement. Further stating that we operate our District; that's our job, if we don't get a firetruck or an ambulance it's not because of this To Merge or Not to Merge letter. He said we will need to get a truck eventually but, in the meantime, we have to repair the ones we have.

The next regular District meeting will be Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____