



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

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

September 18, 2018

Prudential Committee Meeting

Convened: 6:03 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth McKenna

Members: James Menard

Richard Constant (arrived approx. 6:25)

South Hadley District #2: Fire Chief Scott Brady

Asst. Chief Todd Calkins

Treasurer Barbara Miller

Francis DeToma, Water Commissioner

Others Present:

Ryan Moore

Mike Cote

Bill Holt

Sam Lemanski

Chrysanthi Gavagan

Ira Brezinsky

Mike O'Neill

Pat Davis

Meeting called to order by Chairman McKenna

Treasurer's Report and Discussion Items

Free Cash

B. Miller stated that Free Cash had been approved at \$114,199. She provided an explanation of the Free Cash Calculation sheet which had been emailed to the PC members.

Ambulance

B. Miller stated that she had attended a Procurement class last week and was concerned because the price of the ambulance was higher the amount appropriated at the Annual District Meeting. She stated that she previously thought they could pay for the additional cost from other areas of the budget or from the MHC gift account. At the class however MGL Chapter 44, Section 31 was discussed and she called DOR Bureau of Municipal Finance Law and spoke with Attorney James Crowley. He stated that spending more than the appropriation would be unlawful and excessive. The cost of the ambulance with the performance load system is \$254,400 and the desired power load system is an additional \$17,000. There was considerable discussion regarding the ambulance. The final determination was that the ambulance would be ordered without the performance load system reducing the price to approximately \$246,000. There is a six to twelve-month lead time for delivery of the ambulance. At the May District Meeting an article will be included on the warrant to purchase the power load system. J. Menard suggested that the article include two power load systems so that the ambulance that will become A2 can also be equipped with the better loading system and hopefully reduce the individual cost by ordering two at the same time. He acknowledged that the second ambulance does not go out on as many calls but it only takes one for someone to get a back injury. It was determined that the discussion of a second power load system could wait.

J. Menard made a motion to approve the purchase of the Horton ambulance from Greenwood, purchase price not to exceed \$250,000. R. Constant seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Minutes

R. Constant made a motion to approve the minutes of August 21, 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.

PC Chair Report and Discussion Items

Merger

R. Constant stated that there had been email conversations including Atty Mark Beauregard, Atty Brian O'Toole, Michelle Tassinari, Representative John Scibak with CC to Monica Walton, Michael Wozniak, Barbara Miller and himself. He read the most recent email from John Scibak to Attorney Beauregard:

"Thanks for the email. I did briefly discuss the proposed language with Michelle and submitted a draft in the traditional format to House Counsel a few weeks ago. Because August is the primary vacation month for legislative and support staff following the end of formal sessions and yesterday's primary election, I was planning to follow up with the staff in the House Counsel's office when I'm in Boston next week.

I've already spoken to both the Speaker's Office and the Chair of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government and will be reaching out to the governor's office to ensure that these bills will be heard and acted upon in a timely manner, well before my retirement date.

I'll be sharing the final drafts with you and let me know if you have any further questions now or at any point in the future."

B. Miller stated that at one point she had been told that both D1 and D2 would need legislation passed to allow the use of tabulators. R. Constant replied that we don't have a tabulator. B. Miller replied that they hope to for the election with the Town. B. Miller asked if there had been a determination regarding whether or not the District would need to hold a Special District Meeting to adopt Mass. Election laws. She explained that the District had never voted to use "official ballots" and therefore had never been governed by Mass. Election Law and that she believed it may need to be done before we hold our election with the Town. R. Constant made a note to discuss these issues with Representative Scibak.

District Counsel

K. McKenna stated that the Town had appointed Attorney O'Toole as Town Counsel and that he had met with him and hoped District 2 would appoint him as well.

J. Menard made a motion to retain Attorney Brian O'Toole of Ryan & Boudreau, L.L.P as District Counsel, R. Constant seconded for the sake of discussion.

B. Miller stated that she believed he had been appointed on an interim basis. Rick asked if the Town had concerns and therefore didn't appoint him as Town Counsel. K. McKenna said that he

believed it was a formality and that Attorney O'Toole was the Town's Attorney. R. Constant stated that Attorney Ed Ryan had been very generous with his time. K. McKenna agreed and said that based on his meeting he did not expect that to change.

J. Menard repeated the motion to appoint Attorney Brian O'Toole of Ryan & Boudreau, L.L.P as District 2 Counsel, R. Constant seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Ambulance Financing

B. Miller stated that she had not been able to begin the financing process in earnest until the PC approves the ambulance recommendation and she receives paperwork with a firm number. She stated that they would use the same financial advisor they had used for the building bond [Peter Frazier of First Southwest].

Elmer Brook Committee Update

J. Menard stated that they have located both deeds to the Elmer Brook property, the first deed did not describe the entire property. He said that the meeting with Sean Fitzgerald of SHELD went well. F. DeToma said that SHELD power comes from nuclear and the need is seasonal, during high demand seasons they may have a need to purchase one of two megawatts. He further stated that the state may be creating regulations that require renewables in SHELD's portfolio, if so, they would be very interested in purchasing all five megawatts. R. Constant asked if they had contacted National Grid in Granby. J. Menard said that the next step is to get our paperwork (deeds and votes as to how it was purchased) to Rep. Scibak so he can get a determination as to whether or not we can develop it while it's under Chapter 97. He will get as much information as he can to Rep. Scibak so he can compare it to the UMass property with solar that is under Ch. 97. B. Miller stated that we will need to abide by procurement law as we proceed. J. Menard agreed stating that the developer he had been speaking with was aware that it would require the RFP process.

Basement Storage

J. Menard stated that in his search for documents he encountered mold on the items stored in the vault in the basement. He further stated that there are check stubs and water department payment receipts and other documents which are very old and likely do not need to be kept. The vault needs a dehumidifier and to be cleaned out. The PC and F. DeToma agreed that we should purchase a dehumidifier.

Fire Chief Report and Discussion Items

Personnel Changes

Chief Brady stated that the Water Department had been fortunate in their decision to hire FF/EMT Michael Bourbeau. His vacant position has been filled by FF/EMT Chrysanthi Gavagan and the FD is very pleased to have her on full-time.

Call Stats for August

27 EMS Calls

26 Fire Calls

53 Total Calls

The summer is over and the students have returned to MHC and there have already been 50 calls in the first two weeks of September. He noted that the college did not call them over for Fire Safety Training and he expects an increase in the amount of nuisance calls.

Engine 4

Chief Brady provided the PC with a prioritized list of repairs for Engine 4. (Attached)

Mass. OSHA State

Chief Brady stated that changes to the laws will require compliance to OSHA Fire Service Safety Standards to be enforced by the Mass. Department of Labor Standards (DLS). He stated that our level of diesel exhaust may not be compliant. To implement a system which will have a hose to every exhaust pipe will cost approximately \$30,000. The law takes effect in February of 2019 and DLS isn't being too heavy handed at this point; they are looking at accidents and claims and addressing those first. Asst. Chief Calkins displayed air filters from the breakroom and office area; both showing evidence of exhaust being filtered through. Chief Brady said that the gear is also housed in the equipment bay and exposed to carcinogens. All personnel have been instructed to replace hoods after every fire or training. Hoods are of particular concern due to direct skin contact. He further stated that the extractor used to clean the gear removes carcinogens and for a department our size we're doing good but we will need to address the exhaust concerns.

Merger

Chief Brady was asked to read his Vision (attached) which focused on "regionalization over time and with a variety of initiatives" which would have a "great chance of bringing the two departments closer together, increase the quality of services and could spur savings for our taxpayers". The PC members thanked him. K. McKenna stated that he fought for 20 years to get an ambulance up here and he isn't about to let it be taken away. He read his Vision (attached) which focused on two stations to be known as the "District" that provide the same "excellent service that both fire and ambulance provide now" with a five-member Prudential Committee whose "obligation" is to continue the "excellent emergency services we now have, and also be mindful of the tax rate." 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. He continued saying that there are many things to consider beyond operations such as the higher retirement liability of District 1 and the water that we District 2 owns rather than needing to purchase it, that water has value. He added that he didn't know if we should hire someone or look at the 2002 merger study for some guidance. Adding that any vote should wait until we get the town wide voting. 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. R. Constant said that it is very difficult to change but if a student of government were going to create a new town the size of South Hadley and he were told it would need two distinct fire departments he would tell you that you are crazy. R. Constant said that we've spent a lot of effort on dispatch talking to Granby, District 1, South Hadley Police, MHC without much interest from D2 fire. He thanked Chief Brady for his Vision, saying he'd put a lot of work into it and he'd done a good job. T. Calkins stated that the D2 fire had approved the dispatch regionalization plan it was Granby and District 1 that voted against it. S. Lemanski stated that he doesn't think we've recognized that the document received at the last meeting was disrespectful to us. He appreciates the Chiefs well thought out document. I. Brezinski said that the Chiefs document was good. There are three levels to be considered: shared services, regionalization-which is more long lasting and actual merger-which requires the most effort and must be changed by statute. He further stated that saving money and improved service are not mutually exclusive. He acknowledged that MARPA and PVPC are perfect for assisting in these areas. B. Miller mentioned that the state is big on regionalization and there may be state grants available. J. Menard asked what is the next step and 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. K. McKenna said that this is the first time D1 has initiated the merger discussions. He added that we had the Daly Report from 2002 which said that we would save money over time through attrition. We have to start doing something about curbing cost. K. McKenna said that his understanding is that the

formation of the District had to be approved by the Town. 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. If instead we work together over the next few years on some operating principles and get comfortable working together we can work towards a community fire department. K. McKenna said when the bell rings everyone works well together. T. Calkins stated that the moral in D2 is as high as its been in 30 years and in D1 it's as low as it's ever been. He feels D2 has the best call force in Western Mass and we support D1 a lot. K. McKenna stated that he is aware of that. S. Lemanski commented that he wanted to apply for the FT FF/EMT position but after seeing the Vision from District 1 he decided not to. T. Calkins stated that document should never have been presented to District 2. R. Constant stated that any option closing this station is not supported by anyone on this board. P. Davis stated that they understand that the document from the last meeting was not coming from the District 2 PC.

Engine 4

K. McKenna asked the Chief if there was money in the budget for the list of repairs. Chief acknowledged in the affirmative with a nod. K. McKenna stated that the tires had been brought to their attention at the last meeting and the 10-year recommendation from NFPA. He stated that he brought Marty Scoozy, a certified expert, to look at the tires. In M. Scoozy's professional opinion the tires were good for another 3 - 5 years (see attached). According to M. Scoozy commercial tires should be replaced when they are down to 4/32 of an inch of tread. Engine 4 tires are at 18-19/32s on all four tires. He further stated that if state or federal inspectors want to come in, have them call him. Chief Brady asked if Scoozy would be liable if something happens. Chief Brady provided the PC with two documents addressing Tire Aging and Service Life. K. McKenna stated that our concern is that our truck is safe when that truck rolls.

Lettering on the Explorer

J. Menard questioned the status of the lettering on the Explorer. T. Calkins replied that there is a sample he can show the PC.

R. Constant made a motion to complete the process of putting decals on the Chief's vehicle. J. Menard seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Downstairs Door

R. Constant asked about the quote they had received for a hollow metal door replacement, \$3,775.00 from Marios Construction. T. Calkins stated that the outside door near the Water Dept downstairs office both the frame and door are rotted. He said that he had also requested a quote from Colonial Carpentry. Not an immediate need but it will need to be done. K. McKenna asked how much money is put aside in the budget for this type of maintenance. B. Miller responded \$2,000 for small maintenance items and \$2,000 for larger items.

- The next regular District meeting will be Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____