



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075
Tel: (413) 534-5748 - Fax: (413) 517-6054

Minutes of February 15, 2023

Convened: 5:33 p.m.

Adjourned 8:53 p.m.

Present

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth LeBlanc

Members: Robert Bak

John Moriarty

Clerk/Treasurer: Barbara Miller

Fire Chief: Todd Calkins

Meeting called to order by Chairman LeBlanc. It was announced that the meeting is being recorded.

Payroll and Vendor Warrants were reviewed by R. Bak and J. Moriarty. Per Sections 57-58 of the Municipal Modernization Act and PC votes of 12/15/2016 and 3/10/2020 warrants were previously approved by K. LeBlanc, PC Chair.

PC Chair Discussion Items

Budget

B. Miller explained encumbered amounts from the prior year do not get included in the appropriation amount, but when the expense is paid that amount is included in the expended amount. Therefore account 5109 has \$6,150 more remaining than appears in the unexpended column.

There was discussion regarding the health insurance rate increase but the overall cost went down on the PC side due to changes in personnel coverages. B. Miller stated that she included a 6% estimated increase to the General Insurances and a 9% increase to VFIS due to the claims history. The ADT Sprinkler estimate was reduced \$4,000. Every few years there is an extra cost for the sprinklers to be flushed and recharged. There were funds in the FY23 budget, but when the inspection was done, they said it will be good until FY2025. B. Miller stated that trash cost has gone way up. K. LeBlanc requested we call for other estimates, USA Hauling and Recycling may be more cost effective. B. Miller said the fuel account was doubled from the prior year to include the new pickup. K. LeBlanc questioned the telephone and internet increase. Chief Calkins offered to contact Fiberspring to check whether they provide phone service yet. (after the meeting B. Miller realized she had included the full amount rather than just the half paid by the PC). There was discussion regarding the ALS Intercept budget number to confirm it was sufficient. There was discussion regarding capital expenses.

K. LeBlanc gave Chief Calkins a letter received from a resident of District 2. The letter complimented District 2 for their kind and considerate service to his neighbor, who had a difficult time.

The PC reviewed the COLA spreadsheet provided by B. Miller which included the affect on the budget with a 3%, 4% and 5% wage increase. B. Miller had previously provided the CPI increase

of 6.5% as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statics as well as the Social Security COLA increase of 8.7%. There was discussion regarding step increases and the effect on HCRS payments.

R. Bak made a motion to set the COLA increase at 4% for FY2024. K. LeBlanc seconded the motion. R. Bak Yes K. LeBlanc Yes J. Moriarty abstained

Server Warrant Article

B. Miller recommended a warrant article be added for the cost of the new server. There is still the possibility of migrating to web based but we are still working with Sourcepass to determine which option is most beneficial and the cost effectiveness of each option. There was some discussion regarding the bunkroom article.

B. Miller stated that the Water Superintendent requested a warrant article to remove the lien from Marybeth O’Meara’s property. Attorney O’Toole will be consulted regarding the necessary steps.

Executive Session

PC Chair announced a roll call vote to enter executive session in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a), subparagraph 1, for the purpose of discussing the results and resolution of an investigation into a complaint against a member of the organization where discussion of the matter in open session would be detrimental to the rights and reputation of the individuals involved. Roll call vote: LeBlanc - Yes Bak - Yes Moriarty - Yes

K. LeBlanc announced that the PC would return to Open Session at the end of the Executive Session.

Roll Call vote to return to Open Session: Moriarty - Yes Bak-Yes LeBlanc - Yes

J. Moriarty made a motion that they have exited the Executive Session, opened the previous PC meeting and are now adjourning the meeting at 8:53 p.m. 9/15/2023.

The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Thursday March 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____