

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
August 29, 2016

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee Member
Richard Kuklewicz, Prudential Committee Member
John Zellmann, new Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
David Thompson, Finance Committee Member
Ray Godin, Moderator

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes of prior meeting – Minutes were approved for the August 2 meeting.

Invoice warrants – were reviewed and signed by the Prudential Committee.

New Finance Committee members – Moderator Ray Godin addressed the Prudential Committee about the process he uses to screen and appoint Finance Committee Members. He reminded us that when the Finance Committee members attend monthly meetings, we need to also post that it is a meeting for the Finance Committee as well as the Prudential Committee.

Ray left at this time.

Meetings with neighboring Fire Departments – David spoke with the Montague Center Chief and he suggested a meeting between the Prudential Committees and the Fire Chiefs. Bob had sent letter to Gill Selectboard to invite discussions with them. It was mentioned that maybe we should charge a fee for our services to other towns. Small towns are happy with their tax rate, but our taxpayers are paying for many of their fire services. Discussion followed about a group purchase of at least one piece of equipment such as a ladder truck.

John will see about available dates to start a dialog and he will contact Montague Center to see if we can come up with ideas for the Town of Montague.

Chief's report

Bi-weekly payroll - There are a few concerns from fire employees about bi-weekly payroll. The impact was realized after it happened and the employees do prefer weekly payroll. It was brought up that bi-weekly saves the Accountant about 4-4 ½ hrs. every other week, and that most businesses don't pay weekly anymore.

Military policy - John handed out draft of military policy. The draft was discussed with the union president. Prudential Committee will review it and act on it at the next meeting.

Call force update, other – Chief noted that we have 4-5 new call force applications. Two new firefighters will start the Fire Academy September 7.

Accountant's Report

Accountant handed out last draft of bylaws which had not been worked on in awhile.

She noted that our Employee Assistance Program is available to help those if they are having issues with bi-weekly payroll adjustment, or anything else. A representative just visited her and there are a wide variety of services that are offered through the EAP.

Eileen would like an amendment to her contract which specifies of number of employment years necessary for separation pay on unused sick leave. Since Accountant's benefits follows Water Department's policies, she will discuss with Water Commissioners first.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, October 3rd.