

Minutes of Prudential Committee & Finance Committee Meeting
May 7, 2018

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee
John Greene, Prudential Committee
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
Don Reid, Finance Committee
Allyson Chabot, Finance Committee
Chris Mason, Montague Energy Committee

Meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes were approved for the April 2nd meeting.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

LED Streetlights – Chris Mason, representing the Montague Energy Committee, spoke about his meeting with the Town of Montague Administrator and the suggestion was made that individual entities within the town, including our district, continue to manage streetlights including the conversion to LEDs in their own area since it would raise rates for some taxpayers if the town took control of all of them. Town would have costs to incur, but would not see savings. Prudential Committee does not go along with this thought but rather sees our whole community benefiting from streetlights. Discussion followed and it was suggested that we all have a meeting with the Town Planner and the Town Administrator in June. Meeting was later set for June 21 at the Town Hall. Chris also had noted that the Montague Energy Committee will take the lead in the LED streetlight issue.

Ladder Truck Grant was turned down. Key reasons noted are that our truck is not yet 30 years old (it's 29 years old); the average age of our fleet is too new since we had to include the Chief's vehicle and the new pickup truck and also the size of our district and the number of calls with this vehicle. Chief would like to enter into a vehicle lease agreement and he handed out lease pricing sheets and reviewed the numbers.

OSHA – All municipalities, including Fire Departments will be under OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) guidelines in the near future.

Capital Expenditure Plan – Chief handed out draft of capital expenditures and reviewed items.

Call Force – We are now down to 7 members, with one on extended leave due to injuries.

Run Report – We had 98 Total calls for April, of which 51 were EMS calls, including 5 transports.

Dispatching - The Regional Emergency Communications Center report is leaning towards the county going to Shelburne Control and having a facility in Greenfield. The Shelburne Control Oversight Committee recommends taking over Turners Falls and Greenfield dispatching without a new facility and using the savings to upgrade the radio system.

Bus – Prudential Committee had agreed to sell the Fire Department’s old bus and Chief accepted Pittsfield’s offer of \$500 for it.

Old Ambulance Receivables – From the listing that Coastal Billing had provided, John recommends that we send 6 accounts over 180 days to our collection agency, total of which is \$4,370. Prudential Committee agrees.

Ladder truck – Discussion again about ladder truck options including leasing, refurbishing truck, buying used, not doing anything, even though some options may not seem feasible. Chief mentioned that the recommendation is that we replace our vehicles every 10 years, but he will gather written information, including ISO information on the various options. Jay noted that the ISO rating would have a different impact on taller commercial buildings which are already paying a higher tax rate in our town.

Election results – We had 23 voters turn out for our elections on April 24. There was no contest.

Ja’Duke TIF Agreement – We heard back from the state that our TIF agreement with Ja’Duke has been approved.

Health Insurance update – Eileen attended the quarterly Hampshire Group Insurance Trust meeting and it was recommended that the insurance changes previously recommended for FY19 for co-pays and deductibles not be implemented. Because some member units were not quite ready to implement changes, the Executive Committee recommended no changes for FY19 and members approved this recommendation.

Military Policy will be updated for the recent change to allow our current military employee to be grandfathered for an additional 2-3 shifts per our fiscal year. Prudential Committee Chairman will sign off on these additional shifts.

Next meeting is Monday, June 4, 2018 at 5:15 p.m., rather than 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.