

Minutes of Prudential Committee & Finance Committee Meeting  
October 1, 2019

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee  
John Greene, Prudential Committee  
Eileen Tela, District Accountant  
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee  
Karen Tonelli, Director of Assessing

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Minutes were approved for the meeting of September 3.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

New firefighter hire – William Ingram was hired as our new firefighter and is scheduled to start employment with us shortly. He will be attending the fire academy.

LED streetlights – George Woodbury from Lightsmart will be starting our streetlight audit shortly and he would like to meet with all parties involved in streetlight management for our town in a few weeks.

Permanent easement for the Town Highway garage on District property will need to be an article at our next District meeting.

New FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) payroll tax – does not affect municipalities or districts. Eileen checked with our attorney at KP Law and it will not affect us unless our District decides adopt the MGL relating to FMLA. .

FY19 audit field work has been completed. Eileen will contact Pat Squillante from our auditing firm Melanson Health to see if she can attend our next meeting to address ambulance budget and leased equipment concerns.

Driveway project for fire station – We need to send out at least three written requests for quotes for this project. The request needs to have a clear written description of the work requested.

General Govt. budget – It was noted that the streetlights expense account is over budget amount for FY19 due to increase in rates. The FY20 budget may not have enough in this line item either since rates went up late in the budgeting process.

FirstLight Agreement - Karen Tonelli arrived about 4:30 and explained the FirstLight settlement agreement and how this will affect the District. The Town of Montague won the tax case for FY2014. Terms of this new agreement state that FirstLight will withdraw its appeal for FY's 2014-2016 with no abatements and District will issue an abatement for \$134,741.53 for FY's 2017-2019. An agreed property value was reached for FY20 & FY21. After the agreement is finalized, we will be able to have an amount released from overlay. Discussion followed about what to do with these funds, including stabilizing the tax rate, especially after it was noted that

our Town's FY19 tax rate when added to the District rate is over \$20/thousand which is considered high.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.