

Minutes of Prudential Committee & Finance Committee Meeting  
February 4, 2020

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee  
John Greene, Prudential Committee  
Todd O'Brien, new Prudential Committee member  
John Zellmann, Fire Chief  
Eileen Tela, District Accountant  
David Thompson, Finance Committee  
Don Reid, Finance Committee

Meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Minutes were approved for the meeting of January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

Fire Station Driveway apron – Chief contacted four companies to get quote on concrete apron and received two quotes. Bernard Concrete was the lowest quote at \$26,600 with \$9,000 additional for excavating. Valley Concrete's price is \$42,600. We will award job to Bernard's..

Update on injured firefighter – Chris has been progressing well. Chief received letters from AEIOU, his surgeon and physical therapist saying that is ready to come back to work. He will be put back on his normal shift soon.

FY21 Fire and Ambulance Budgets –Drafts were reviewed. Fire budget was presented with and without 2 additional firefighters.

Paramedic intercepts – Chief would like us to pay for paramedic intercepts even if we haven't received full payment for the transport. This is a cost of doing business. The present policy is that we pay for intercept only after full payment is received for the transport. Prudential Committee agrees.

Ambulance budget – Discussion followed about if now is the time to ask our taxpayers to dissolve the revolving fund for the ambulance, which would mean that we would combine the ambulance budget with the fire budget.

Radio System – Franklin County is included in the state program for a new radio system. Turners Falls is scheduled to receive 50 radios, including 34 portables. John figures we will need to have a special article for \$60,000 for installation of these radios and upgrades. The radios are the basic model and any upgrades we would have to pay the difference.

Regional grant – with Greenfield, 2 Deerfields, Erving. The grant (AFG grant) would cover air packs. We will need a 10% match, which amounts to \$30,000 if the grant is approved.

Ambulance – Chief thinks we should look at buying a new ambulance to replace our first ambulance, a 2001 model year. Cost would be about \$250,000 for new vehicle.

Driveway project - We would need another \$40,000-\$45,000 for completing the driveway at the fire station.

SAFER grant – SAFER grant applications will be open in early March. It would cover a percentage of a new firefighter(s)' salary and benefits for the first three years if approved. Discussion followed about if we include additional firefighters in our budget, that we may not be eligible for the SAFER grant.

Free Cash – has been approved for \$285,025 and Ambulance Fund Free Cash is \$74,839 as of July 1, 2019.

Update on streetlights – George Woodbury from LightSmart was in touch with a KP lawyer and he was advised that our group can enter an agreement that will help us all move forward together in planning for the streetlight conversion to LED's within our town and our district can take the lead in this.. George will draft an agreement within the next few weeks. We are waiting to hear if Eversource can sell all of the lights in our District's name, rather than the Town of Montague, since we manage most of them; if we can have the same separate billing accounts and if there will be a charge if we remove about 40 or so lights before the conversion. Eileen checked with two financing sources – All American Investment Group, the company that financed our lease for our new ladder truck, and her contact with the Massachusetts State Note program and both said that this project would under the realm of their financing. Current rates are low 4% for a 7 year loan.

Next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. to continue working on the FY21 budget requests.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.