

Minutes of Prudential Committee & Finance Committee Meeting
March 5, 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
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee
David Thompson, Finance Committee

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

Minutes were approved for the meeting of February 4th.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

FY21 budgets – General Government budget was reviewed

Radio system upgrade may not happen in FY21.

Dispatching – Shelburne has accepted us for dispatching. There will be some costs that we will have to incur, such as internet connections for master boxes, etc.

Suggested Special Articles:

\$30,000 matching grant for airpacks
50,000 ambulance replacement
45,000 blacktop fire station driveway
6,000 EMS equipment- 2 monitors with 12 leads

Other possible Articles:

\$28,272 Chief's unused sick pay
16,256 Chief's unused vacation pay

Union contract negotiations – next meeting scheduled for March 18 at 6:00 at the Fire Station.
(later cancelled due to COVID-19 situation)

Two additional firefighters – Discussion followed about how much two additional staff members would cost the district, including benefits and also the ambulance service.

Call force callback - Chief would like us to have a minimum of 1.5 hours pay for call force callback. Prudential Committee agrees.

Progressive Discipline Policy was reviewed and discussed. John Greene made motion to approve as edited. David seconded. All in favor.

Ambulance budget – Eileen noted that if we want to ask our taxpayers to merge the ambulance budget with the fire budget, we would still prepare two budgets for FY21, but if our taxpayers agree to merge the two starting in FY21, we would combine them at that point.

LED streetlights – George Woodbury drafted agreement that we can use, but we still do not know if Eversource will allow our District to purchase all the lights within the Town of Montague. Green Community grant may be available to assist us with this project, but the Town has not yet completed their last project relating to this grant, and therefore we would not be able to apply for this until March 2021.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. to continue working on the budgets, including the Special Article requests. (Meeting later cancelled due to COVID-19)

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.