

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
November 12, 2020

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
John Greene, Prudential Committee
Todd O'Brien, Prudential Committee
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
David Thompson, Finance Committee
Don Reid, Finance Committee
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee
Bruce Merriam, Water Commissioner

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and was held at the District Office with required masks and social distancing.

Invoice Warrants were reviewed and signed.

Streetlights – GIS mapping was projected on the wall and many individual streets were reviewed with a list made for possible removal of streetlights on those overlit areas within our District. We will review on-site those areas on the list and discuss at our next meeting. Lake Pleasant area was reviewed and it was decided that it should remain as is, per Bruce Merriam. Bruce left at this time.

Definition of 3 weeks vacation per union contract – Accountant requests clarification of how many hours 3 weeks vacation amounts to since this has been a recurring issue for carryover as well as separation. Chief explained that it was intended to mean 48 hours/week. However contract lists work schedules as being on an average of 42 hours/week. After discussion, it was decided to clarify the language at next contract negotiation, but for now assume it means 48 hours/week. Sick pay separation needs some language change as well.

Run reports – We had 95 calls for September, including 56 EMS, of which 23 were transports. October had 106 calls with 57 EMS, including 25 transports.

Dispatch update – Change to dispatching is moving slowly. We are waiting to get signed off by state police and are working with Greenfield on the master box setup and internet connection.

Fire Department staffing - We have just been notified that Captain Brunelle will be out on military leave from November 23 until next may. Two others in the department are facing surgery and another will also be out, so we will have staffing issues that the Chief is trying to work out.

COVID19– this has ramped up in our area, with 9 testing positive in our town.

SCBA grant- We'll be receiving 24 Scott air packs along with accessories.

Firefighter Will Ingram is now off his one year probationary period and Chief recommends appointment to permanent force. John Greene made motion for appointment for permanent force. Todd seconded. All in favor.

COVID reimbursements – We've requested a FEMA reimbursement of \$5,942 and also a CARES reimbursement from the Town of Montague for \$7,268 for a total of \$13,210.

Ambulance Surplus – should be approved for approximately \$88,000 and we have another \$50,000 encumbered for a replacement ambulance. Discussion followed about the possibility of leasing a new ambulance. Cost currently is about \$248,000 and another \$28,000 for equipment, for a total of \$276,000. David Z has an estimate of \$42,000/year for 7 years on a lease for this amount and a down payment would reduce this.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.