

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
March 6, 2017

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee Member
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
David Thompson, Finance Committee
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee
Allyson Greene, Finance Committee
Todd Brunelle, Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes of prior meeting – Minutes were approved for the February 6th meeting.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed by the Prudential Committee.

Budgets – Chief reviewed proposed FY18 budget, with no additional staff, which reflects current union negotiations. Projected call increase is 9.6 % and three staff will be off probation July 1st and will receive step increase to firefighters' salaries. The FY18 ambulance budget was also reviewed, with an increase of \$3,500 (later changed to 4,500). Chief expect transports to be up. Mutual aid calls were discussed.

Fatal incidents- Fire Dept. personnel were recently involved in the tragic Warwick fire and also the fatal accident in Montague recently. The Critical incident stress team will be coming in shortly to help.

Review of Articles:

\$30,000 – to purchase and equip used ambulance from ambulance surplus
\$ 4,800 – emergency reporting system software from free cash
\$ 23,500 – Scott bottle replacement program, from free cash (later changed to transfer of some special article balances with additional funds from free cash)

Ladder truck - Replacement of the 28 year old ladder truck was also discussed. Chief presented figures for lease to own and also a purchase option. If purchased, would cost about \$995,500. If leased with \$100,000 down, 5 year lease annual payments would be \$195,150; for 7 years 144,600 and for 10 years 108,000. The seven year lease looks like it may fit our needs.

Chief explained the H-GAC, a cooperative purchasing program which we may able to use to purchase the ladder truck.

After discussion, it was suggested that we can put down \$150,000; which would be \$90,000 from stabilization and \$60,000 from free cash. Prudential Committee suggested putting the replacement of the ladder truck on the warrant for this year.

Ambulance fund transfer - Since the ambulance enterprise fund legally began July 1, 2017, we need to move the FY16's net income to the new fund, as a special article. This will be about \$11,000. FY15 ambulance surplus was already transferred, per vote of last year's meeting.

Overlay account – We have a significant amount in overlay reserved for the FirstLight assessment issue. This was discussed with the Assessors' recently and it's possible this may be released during this calendar year.

Military Leave Policy – Discussion followed about some aspects of the draft military policy. Accountant just received e-mail with update on certain military leave laws from KP Law. It was decided to table this for now and add to next meeting's agenda.

Run reports – February's total calls were 81; 58 EMS calls with 7 transports.

Add'l FY18 Budgets – The general govt. budget was reviewed. Increase over this year is 7.45%, mainly due to high medical insurance increases and a 21% increase in retirement assessment – from \$204,421 in FY17 to \$247,394. An e-mail from our actuary indicated it's mainly due to increased wages and increased staff.

Debt service budget was also reviewed. We are requesting 25% less this year, mainly because one loan was paid off in FY17.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 20th at 5:00 p.m. Scheduled early to review warrant and motions to be presented at District meeting, which will be held Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.