

Minutes of Prudential Committee & Finance Committee Meeting
October 2, 2017

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee
John Greene, Prudential Committee
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
Allyson Chabot, Finance Committee
Steve Contantine, Finance Committee
Walter Ramsey, Montague Town Planner
Chris Mason, Montague Energy Group
Ken Garber, Eversource Representative
Todd Brunelle, Captain, Fire Department

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

Minutes were accepted for the September 7th meeting.

Invoice warrants were reviewed and signed.

LED streetlights – Ken Garber, Eversource representative, spoke and noted that when Eversource sells lights, their policy is to sell all lights within the entire municipality. For us this would mean not just the Fire District portion. Montague is coded as one municipality in Eversource. He also thinks that we have too many streetlights within our town and before proceeding with LED's, we should consider what lights are necessary to reduce billing inventory. Discussion followed about the need to start this for Avenue A and Montague City Road. Eversource will cap suggested lights to be turned off to see what impact this will have – about 20 at a time. Chris mentioned there is a map that would overlap urban and rural areas to decide how many lights should be in a given area. Ken will send us the GPS coordinate map that he has to go along with the streetlight inventory for us to use. Walter said that the Town will work on with us on having these lights turned off.

Ken , Walter and Chris left at this time.

Ambulance Receivables – Accountant reviewed calculation of expected collections for outstanding receivables as of June 30 ,2017. Total of \$13,558 expected to be collected from \$54,867 outstanding. Auditors reviewed it and seem to be okay with it. Chief noted that it's the cost of doing business. Ambulance surplus increased at the end of June by about \$10,000 over last year.

EMS calls - In August there were 95 calls, of which 58 were EMS, including 16 transports.

Cell phones for Fire Department – Chief would like to order 2 cell phone for the fire station - one on the ambulance and the other the on-duty phone, rather than having staff use personal cell phones. We just had to pay for a replacement phone for an employee's damaged phone. Prudential Committee agrees with this.

Military Policy – Todd Brunelle addressed the Prudential Committee about the new military policy, effective in July and would like the Committee to reconsider this policy. He feels the District went from being supportive after 17 years of military service while employed here, to nothing at all, although it does not violate any laws. He stated that any time he uses for military service, he is without a paycheck until he uses vacation or personal time.

David explained that this issue has been tabled for about six years or so, and that we are concerned about future military employees. We are now in line with other policies within contracts that we reviewed, but we will revisit the policy.

Accountant's FY18 contract was signed by the Prudential Committee.

FY17 audit – Field work was last week and accountant thought it went well. Audit was done several weeks earlier this year. Reconciliations were done earlier and bi-weekly payroll time savings helps.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, November 13, at 4:00 p.m., before the tax rate meeting at 5:00 p.m.

(This was later changed to next meeting on Monday, November 6 at 5:00 p.m. and tax rate meeting at the Director of Assessing's office on Thursday, October 26 at 5:15 p.m.)

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.