

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
November 30, 2015

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee Member
Rich Kuklewicz, Prudential Committee Member
Bob Escott, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes of prior meetings– Minutes were approved for the November 30th meeting.

Invoice warrants – were reviewed and signed by the Prudential Committee.

Chief's Report

Regional Call Force – This idea is moving forward, but the COG representative that was working on this has moved on to a different job. Bob will be meeting with reporter from Greenfield Recorder shortly to publicize the shortage of current manpower. The Montague Reporter and Montague Community Television have not yet responded to the Chief's calls.

St. Anne's Church – Bob contacted our attorney at Kopelman and Paige about this. He suggested that Bob follow his plan of notifying owner of fire code violations. Since most violations were for the building codes, the Building Inspector will be sending a letter to the owner, which will also include fire code violations. Bob has not yet received a copy of the letter.

Calls – Fire Dept. was called out 83 times last month; 1,100 year-to-date. Looks like they will be on target for 1,200 annual calls. The call force was called in 304 times during this year.

East Chestnut Hill Road, Montague – Bob did mention to retiring Chief Greene of the Montague Center Fire District, that we have been responding to calls in this area. Chief Greene was surprised. Bob will have discussion about this with the new Chief when he takes over.

Firefighter of the year awards - Seven of our guys were recognized in this special event.

Bucket truck – bids will be opened December 18.

MedCare – The Chief has not yet received any numbers from MedCare. He will approach the town to get on next Selectboard's agenda to see if the town will forward information to him.

Employee's part-time work – Chief mentioned that this can be an issue such as if an employee is working for MedCare while responding to a fire in our District. There may be certain limitations to be discussed in next union contract.

Health care – Bob mentioned that an unmarried employee would like to have his partner on his health plan. Eileen explained that only married spouses or dependents are allowed on employee's health plan, per the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust.

Budget – The operating budget is on track. The electrical panels for the fire station have just been installed, and the fire station fire alarm is now being installed.

Accountant's Report

Eileen noted that new clerk/collector, Suzanne Leh, will be starting on December 14.

Discussion followed about increasing Fire Department staff.

Next meeting will be held on Monday January 4, 2016 at 5:00 p.m

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.