

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES – AUGUST 15, 2018

PRESENT: Prudential Committee members Edward Smith, Stuart Schulman, Van Northcross, Fire Chief Joe Maruca, District Treasurer Ray Pirrone, District Accountant Susan Rao, and District Clerk Elaine Grace.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The minutes of July 19, 2018 were accepted as written, with two corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The following warrants were approved for payment:

AP 19-02	26,971.40
AP 19-03	113,911.00
AP 19-04	28,645.74
AP 19-05	17,430.32
PR 19-03	18,230.45
PR 19-04	13,284.13
PR 19-05	23,933.69

Mr. Pirrone advised that he met with the District's DOR representative recently and the DOR has built a bridge in the Gateway system which can go into the Vadar software and extract values from the system. The Chief advised that EMS and the State Fire Marshall's office have done this with the Fire Departments.

The 2019 budget has been loaded into the system. We are off to a good start with \$22,000 in ambulance revenue. However, we have not received any reimbursement from Medicare yet.

Mr. Pirrone reported that FY2018 is being wrapped up and that account reconciliation is in process. The auditors should be at the fire station next week, and their report should be completed by late September, early October.

Mr. Pirrone will talk with Ed O'Neil at Assessing to determine when to schedule the Classification Hearing – this year our Prudential Committee meeting falls on the night before Thanksgiving so the meeting may need to be rescheduled.

CANCER PRESUMPTION LAW

The new law does not require cities/towns/districts to pay the medical expenses of firefighters diagnosed with cancer – it requires firefighters so diagnosed to be placed on line of duty disability pay (111F). They are also not required to use up their vacation or sick leave while they are out of work. Only specific cancers are covered and presumed contracted in the line of duty. The Chief advised that in his opinion, insurance companies will probably deny medical bill coverage since they will claim the disability a worker's compensation issue and thus, they are not responsible for covering such illnesses or injuries. The Chief has written a legal opinion regarding the new law and its consequences and has shared his thoughts with the other local Chiefs so that they may ask the right questions of their legal counsel, insurance representatives and local officials. He will forward a copy to the Prudential Committee.

FIRE CHIEF'S ANNUAL REVIEW

Mr. Schulman recused himself from participating in the Chief's Annual Review since he has just been elected to the Prudential Committee. It was the consensus of the Committee to hand in the written reviews of Mr. Smith and Mr. Northcross to the Clerk, who will average the score.

Mr. Northcross noted that in the third section of the review form, he wrote in a "5" and "outstanding" for "Yes" rather than "3" under writes grants because he felt that under the Chief a culture of grant writing exists at the West Barnstable Fire Department.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL – FIREFIGHTER POACHING

The Chief is working on a legislative proposal to address reimbursement for training per a formula to recover costs when newly trained firefighters are hired away by other departments. The Chief indicated Falmouth, Maine has the same problem as West Barnstable – they train them, and Portland hires them. The Chief plans to file the proposal in January 2019 with the help of Randy Hunt and Julian Cyr. The Chief will also reach out to other fire departments for input.

UNION CONTRACT EXPIRES JUNE 2019

Mr. Shulman volunteered to sit on the negotiating committee as the Prudential Committee member. Mr. Smith asked for a copy of the contract to be available at the next meeting. The Committee needs to take a look at the impact of the cost of living increase on the budget and develop a salary schedule calculation tool based on the cost of living percentage. The "Grievance Committee" referred to in the Contract also needs to be defined. The Chief will inform Union President Bill Murray that the Union needs to send a request to open contract negotiations to the Prudential Committee.

POTENTIAL BYLAW CHANGE – QUORUM

Discussion continues. No decision yet.

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

No outstanding or major events were noted in the report.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Ethics Disclosure – Chief to NVFC Meeting in September:

Mr. Northcross motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and it was unanimously voted to approve the Chief's travel to Bismark, North Dakota to the NVFC meeting.

Chief's Travel Schedule in 2018

The truck has been delivered to Chatham.

Staff Changes/Updates:

It is official that Lt. Clough is retiring – he met with the Retirement Board and has applied for disability retirement. He will turn 55 this coming Friday. He has been on vacation and sick leave pay since mid-May. Lt. Clough will be receiving regular retirement pay until disability retirement begins.

Career Firefighter Job Posting:

The career firefighter position has been posted.

Engine 294 Status:

The engine was returned to the dealer in Connecticut two weeks ago. An hour and a half meeting between Deputy Paananen, the Chief, Joe Queenan, the head of sales in Connecticut and the regional manager took place. The national service manager was called and briefed on the issues and has said he would take care of the issues. The new suspension still bounced – sent to Cummings and is now fixed! It was a software issue (throttle bounce). The engine should be back next week. A punch list is being reviewed and the national service manager recommended that the warranty date should be reset. The engine also received new tires – the tire code indicated the tires were unused, but old. Thanks to Deputy Paananen for that catch!

Building Maintenance/Repairs:

Nothing to report.

OSHA Compliance:

Nothing to report.

Emergency Calls/Events Update:

A motorcycle accident on Sunday, August 13th sent a 19 year old rider to South Shore Hospital with possible back injuries - the accident occurred at the intersection of Church and Pine Streets.

Other:

The Chief will email a copy of Boston College graduate student Ashley Perry's thesis on Generational Mismatch: Negotiating the Fit Between Occupation and Lifestyle among Small-town New England Firefighters. It's very interesting reading.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine L. Grace, District Clerk