

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #1
144 Newton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Prudential Committee REGULAR Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: March 28, 2019

Location: Fire District Headquarters, 144 Newton Street

This session is being recorded

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

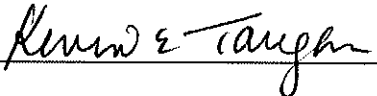
Prudential Committee Members Present: Michael Wozniak, Chairman (MIW)
 Kevin Taugher, Clerk
 Bruce Perron, Member
Other attendees: Chief Authier (RA)
 Monica Walton (MW)

- Call to order
- Signing of warrants authorizing payroll and expense payments
 - The PC signed warrants for expenses, payroll, the election, and the annual District meeting.
- Discussion and vote on eliminating benefits for future part-time elected officials
 - MIW said that Fire District 2, and most communities in MA are no longer subsidizing health insurance for elected officials.
 - There are two elected officials receiving health insurance benefits, Bruce Perron and William Schenker.
 - KT said the primary intent of this policy was to end the health insurance benefit for elected officials and part-time employees. We should revisit this policy in the future to better clarify the qualifications to receive insurance benefits.
 - MIW read the proposed policy. A copy is attached to these minutes.
 - KT moved and MIW seconded a motion to approve this policy as written. Motion passed, 2-0; BP abstained.
 - BP asked for an interpretation of the insurance benefit for elected officials. It was confirmed that the two current elected officials may continue to receive the benefit until they are no longer in office.

- Discussion and vote on raising rates for intercepts and ambulance runs
 - MIW read a memo from Kurt Schenker, recommending the District raise the ambulance run rates. The rates have not increased since 2016. COMSTAR Ambulance Billing Service suggested certain rate increases based upon prevailing rates in COMSTAR's experience.
 - KT wanted to know how often COMSTAR makes a recommendation on rate increases.
 - MIW asked RA for information on rate increases by Fire District 2. RA did not know offhand the timing of D2 rate increases.
 - KT moved and BP seconded the motion to approve the rates expressed in the table, "2019 Rate Change Form" provided by COMSTAR, to take effect July 1, 2019. Motion passed, 3-0.
 - MIW reviewed a table of proposed Intercept fees provided by Kurt Schenker. KS recommends a new intercept rate of \$325.
 - RA explained the prevailing rates in the local communities. Amherst and Northampton are both at \$300 per intercept.
 - KT asked for more detail on actual ambulance costs in the future.
 - BP moved and KT seconded a motion to increase the Intercept rate to \$325, effective July 1, 2019. Motion passed 3-0.
- Discussion and vote on raising permit fees
 - RA distributed a table with District 2 inspection fees. Most fees are \$50 per inspection, with stepped increases in fees for tasks such as underground tank inspections and multi-family housing inspections.
 - MIW asked for the fee schedule that RA is proposing. RA said that his proposal is to charge \$50 for any type of inspection with an exception to keep open burning permits at \$10.
 - KT asked if the wide range of inspections all took the same amount of time to perform. RA said that they more-or-less did take the same amount of time.
 - KT said that if they all take the same amount of time, then he had no problem with a uniform rate.
 - KT asked for what fee RA would charge for new construction, referring to the D2 rate sheet which charges so much per square ft. RA said that the District charges a fee for inspecting dwellings only when they are sold.
 - MIW asked for the document we are voting on. RA said he was only looking to raise the current inspection rate of \$35 to \$50, except for the \$10 open burning permit to remain at \$10.
 - KT said since the new rates won't take effect until July 1, we should wait until we have an official rate sheet in hand before we vote. RA said that Lt. Houle would be working on the sheet, and it would be available shortly.
 - The vote on the inspection rates was tabled.
 - MIW asked RA to send MIW a copy of the proposed table as soon as it is available from Lt. Houle. RA agreed to provide it to MIW.
- Continue the formal review of the Fire Chief
 - MIW collected the written comments on the review form from KT and MIW. BP had no comments, since his ratings did not include any 1's or 5's. MIW will make copies of the comments and forward them to RA for his review. Any comments RA has on the review forms are to be returned to MIW. The PC agreed to this process.

- New business unforeseen 48 hours or less before this meeting
 - None.
 - Confirmation of agenda items for future meetings and next meeting date
 - The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Reorganization of the PC will be first on the agenda, subsequent to the election on April 9, 2019.
 - Motion to adjourn
 - BP moved and KT seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed 3-0.
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.
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- Voted and approved by the Prudential Committee on April 24, 2019.

A true copy, attest:



Kevin E. Taugher, Clerk

Fire District Health, Dental and Life Insurance Benefits Policy

The Fire District provides the following group insurance coverage for regular full-time employees and eligible part-time employees:

Group medical and hospital and dental insurance are offered to eligible employees and their families in accordance with MGL c. 32B. Such plans are contributory with the District paying a percentage of the premium and the employee paying the balance.

Group life insurance is offered to each regular full-time employee including coverage of \$5,000 for life insurance with the District paying a percentage of the premium and the employee paying the balance.

Insurance coverage is subject to amendment from time to time as are the contributory amounts.

ELIGIBILITY Active Employees: Full-time permanent employees and eligible part-time employees scheduled for 20 or more hours a week (as defined by law) are eligible for insurance coverage. New hires eligible for insurance will qualify for health, dental, and life insurance benefits the first day of service. Premiums are paid to the provider in advance for the subsequent month of coverage. Employees with a separation in service are considered new hires under this policy.

Retirees: Retirees with at least ten years of full-time service to the District can receive health insurance benefits if elected to do so at the time of retirement.

Retirees who do not choose health insurance at the time of retirement will not be allowed back on to the plan after their date of retirement.

Retirees who are unable to have their insurance premium deducted from their retirement benefit must contact the Clerk/Treasurer at the time of retirement to make payment arrangements directly to the District. Non-payment in 30 days will result in termination of coverage.

The District will pay a percentage of the premium for the medical insurance for the widow or widower of retired employees with at least twenty years of service to the District. (Voted 12/14/1983)

Payments will be due to the Benefits Office on a regular basis as determined by the Clerk/Treasurer, unless payment is made via a District pension.