

Tuesday, July 12, 2019 – 1:00 PM
Meeting Minutes
Prudential Committee Meeting Room
144 Newton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

In Attendance: PC Clerk Bruce Perron, PC member Kevin Taugher, PC member John Wojciechowski, Interim Clerk Treasurer Ira Brezinsky

CALL TO ORDER

Perron called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

Motion: Perron moved to enter into Executive Session in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a), subparagraph 3, and return to open session at the conclusion of executive session for the purpose of 1) Discussing legal strategy with respect to imminently threatened litigation at the adoption of new health policy for District #1 and 2) Discussing legal strategy with respect to clearly and imminently threatened litigation at the Department of Labor Relations because discussing these items in open session will have a deleterious effect on the District’s negotiating position”.

Roll call vote at 1:02 to enter Executive Session: Wojciechowski aye, Taugher aye, Perron aye.

The PC returned to Open Session at 1:22 PM

Motion: Taugher moved to review and approve any process to replace the Chief’s vehicle and to place this discussion on the next meeting agenda. Wojciechowski seconded. Motion carried 2-1 (Taugher, Wojciechowski aye; Perron nay).

DISCUSSION RE: FUTURE PC AGENDA ITEMS

Schenker would like to proceed with a review and update of the District’s bylaws. All agreed. Taugher would also like to review and update District policies. There was brief discussion of use of a consultant versus conducting the study “in house”. No decision was made.

CHANGE IN HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT FOR PRIOR EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT WATER DEPT

Brezinsky reported that Wayne Walton, a previous employee of the Water Department, had recently applied for health and dental insurance benefits. His application was based on the notion that he was a retiree of the District and eligible for benefits. After review by the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, it has been determined that Mr. Walton is not considered to be a retiree and does not qualify for retiree insurance benefits. This determination was made, in part, as a result of the policy adopted by the PC at its March 28 meeting. If the policy is amended, the HCGIT would review the situation to determine if benefits could be reinstated.

Following a lengthy discussion, the PC will take this situation under advisement and decide at a future date whether or not any additional action or policy change is in order. In the meantime, Brezinsky will notify Mr. Walton that he can apply for insurance under COBRA, but will need to pay 100% of the premium. Additionally, Perron and Brezinsky will speak with Attorney Brendan Hughes.

REQUEST TO SEEK APPOINTMENT TO THE HCGIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Brezinsky stated he will be attending the quarterly HCGIT Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting on July 17. There is a vacancy on the Executive Committee and he would like to be considered for appointment by the IAC at the July 17 meeting. The PC supported this idea.

CHIEF’S EVALUATION

There was a brief discussion of the upcoming Chief’s evaluation. This will be placed on the next agenda.

REVIEW OF BYLAWS AND POLICIES

After brief discussion, it was decided that the process for review of bylaws and policies would begin with a discussion between the Clerk Treasurer, Fire Chief, Water Superintendent, and PC. Expectations and scope of work will be determined, followed by proposed bylaw and policy changes to be considered and enacted. The kickoff for this project will be placed on a future PC agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Chief’s evaluation
- Review and updating of bylaws and policies
- Review and approval of Chief’s vehicle
- Review of Open Meeting Law

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is planned for July 25 at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Taugher moved to adjourn at 2:01 PM. Wojciechowski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ira Brezinsky
District #1, Interim Clerk Treasurer

A true copy, attest:

Kevin Taugher, Prudential Committee Clerk