

**Meeting of the Royalton Fire District #1 Prudential Committee**  
**ANNUAL MEETING January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 7:00 PM**  
**at the Royalton School Garner Rix Room**

Members attending: **Bill Ballou, Wayne Manning, David Whitney**  
Guests attending: **Theron Manning** – Annual Meeting Moderator/Resident, **Paul Brock** – Chief Engineer,  
**Heidi Vogt** – Bookkeeper  
Public Attendees: **Marion Whitney, Paul Whitney, Keith Grimes, Seth Stoddard**

**Theron Manning**, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Voters of the Royalton Fire District #1 were warned and notified to meet at the Royalton School to transact the following business in accordance with Title 20 VSA 2483;

- 1) Approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting (2015): **Wayne** motioned to accept the minutes as submitted, **Paul Brock** seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried 6-0.
- 2) Elect a Moderator for one year: **Wayne** nominated, and motioned to accept **Theron Manning** as moderator. **David Whitney** seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed 8-0. (Two attendees arrived late thus making the vote totals greater by 2).
- 3) Elect a Clerk for one year: **Bill Ballou** nominated, and motion to accept **Wayne Manning** as Clerk. **Paul Brock** seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion carried 8-0.
- 4) Officer's Reports: **Paul Brock** reported as Fire Chief (Chief Engineer). There were 71 calls, totaling 730 man hours. The majority of calls were motor vehicle accidents (27) but there were also 2 calls for downed power lines, 2 structure fires, 3 mutual aid structure fires, 2 chimney fires, 4 wildland fires, 2 mutual aid wildland fires, 7 car fires, 3 illegal burns, 1 water rescue, 6 CO2 calls, 2 medical assistance calls, 8 fire alarm activations, and 3 other calls not falling into these categories. The fire personnel received over 80 hours of training in the areas of apparatus operations, air pack usage, rope and technical rescue, water rescue (6 members have attained this level!), hazmat protocol, and first aid. [We] are hoping to secure grants to help replace out dated bunker gear as well as [our] 38 year old rescue utility truck. Mr. Brock also reviewed changes to the annual budget including, but not limited to, requesting \$10,000 more per year from the taxpayers as well as \$5,000 from the VT Law School to aid in saving for truck and equipment replacements. The Selectboard endorses this change.  
**Wayne Manning** reported as Water Operator, as well as Clerk, and also with regard to the Treasurer's report (lacking a Treasurer). The water rate is projected to increase 3 cents this coming fiscal year from \$1.69 per 100 gallons, to \$1.72. A request for \$7,000 to purchase a backup pump for the North Windsor Street pump station was added to the budget, as well as a line item for capital savings to help with the upcoming cost of repairing the Lake John dam. **Paul Brock** asked the condition of the filter units at the plant; **Wayne** reported they are in fine condition and have many more years and that he was misled by symptoms of condensation as per their condition. The concrete reservoir is also in fine condition. The possibility of a bond vote within the next year and a half was discussed. **Theron** requested the Board to be sure to give the public property warning, adding explanation in the paper sooner than later, and requested a project list for the Water district (as a resident/customer of the District).  
**Heidi Vogt** read Rescue Administrator David Palmer's written report in his absence. The Rescue Squad responded to 323 total calls in the calendar year 2015: 184 in Royalton, 71 in Sharon, 25 in Tunbridge, and the remainder being mutual aid to other Towns. Staff attended a training program allowing [us] to provide a falls prevention service called "Fallscape" to the community. Since falls are a major contributor to hospitalizations, and a leading cause of loss of independence, this program is extremely beneficial to assist [our] elderly community in maintaining their independence. Information booklets are available. [We] now provide installation and service for LifeLine. [We] are working with Dartmouth Hitchcock directly, but can service other systems as well. Information packets are also available for this. [We] ended fiscal year 2015 with a balanced budget, ending a string of deficit years. **David Whitney** asked that the Rescue Administrator always attend Annual Meetings. **Theron Manning** inquired re: savings for replacement ambulance and where the Tri-Town Committee stands. **Heidi** and **Paul Brock** advised the status of the meetings. There an upcoming meeting with the Prudential Committee and the Royalton Selectboard on the 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss this further.
- 5) Elect Chief Engineer for one year: **Paul Whitney** nominated, and motioned to accept **Paul Brock** as Chief Engineer. **David Whitney** seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed 8-0.
- 6) Elect a Treasurer for one year: The Board has no candidates at this time. **Wayne** volunteered to stand in until a candidate can be found. **Bill Ballou** motioned to accept **Wayne Manning** at acting Treasurer. **Paul Brock** seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion carried 8-0.
- 7) Elect a Tax Collector for one year: This position is not necessary at this time. The Board will leave this on the agenda for the possibility of future use, and per State statutes.
- 8) Delinquent Tax collector for one year: This position is not necessary at this time. The Board will leave this on the agenda for the possibility of future use, and per State statutes. **Wayne Manning** suggested allocating a collections company to assist for delinquent water bills.
- 9) Elect an Auditor for one year: The Board will continue to leave this position empty and allocate the services of Angolano & Company as has been done for the past several years.

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- 10) Elect two members to a 1 year term: **David Whitney** offers to fill one position if no others are willing. **Theron Manning** nominated **Seth Stoddard**. **Wayne** motioned to accept both **David** and Seth as members for a one year term. **Bill Ballou** seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion carried 8-0.
- 11) Elect a member for a three year term: **Wayne Manning** nominated, and motioned to accept **Don Lovejoy** (who accepted this nomination at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Prudential Committee) to a three year term. There was no discussion and the motion carried 8-0.
- 12) Elect member to fill remaining two years of a three year. **Wayne** nominated, and motioned to accept **Bill Ballou** to fill in the remaining term until 2018. **David Whitney** seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion carried 8-0.
- 13) Set water rate for district patrons for the coming year: **Bill Ballou** motioned to accept the Water Departments request for \$1.72 per 100 gallons used as a rate for the upcoming year. **David Whitney** seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion carried 8-0.
- 14) Set water rate for out of district patrons for the coming year: **Bill Ballou** motioned to accept the Water Departments request for \$1.72 per 100 gallons used as a rate for the upcoming year, **Paul Brock** seconded. **Paul Whitney** recommends no more additions to the system outside of the District until necessary improvements are made. The vote was held and the motion carried 8-0.
- 15) Vote a sum of money to determine the Tax rate: **Paul Brock** motioned the set the tax rate at \$0 for the year, **Wayne Manning** seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion carried 8-0.
- 16) Next meeting; January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- 17) Approved proposed renewed Bylaws: The Board agreed they are not read to act upon this item at this time. The item was tabled for a special meeting to be properly and adequately warned to the public or at the next annual meeting at the Prudential Committee's discretion.
- 18) Transact any other non-binding business proper to be brought before this meeting: There were no requests.

**Wayne Manning** motioned to adjourn, **Paul Whitney** seconded, there was no discussion and the meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi L. Vogt,  
Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper