

# **Minutes of the Royalton Fire District #1 Joint Meeting of the Prudential Committee**

December 14, 2016

Members attending: **Seth Stoddard** – Acting Chair, **David Whitney** – Member, **Don Lovejoy** – Member,  
**Wayne Manning** – Treasurer/Clerk  
Guests attending: **Heidi Vogt** – Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

**Seth** called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

**Heidi** asked to add November 23rd minutes to the list of needing approval. **Seth** asked to table November 16<sup>th</sup> from the list.

**Wayne** motion to accept the minutes from October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, **Don** seconded passing the minutes 3-1, **Seth** abstained. **Wayne** motion to accept the minutes from November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, **Don** seconded passing the minutes 3-1, **Seth** abstained. **Seth** requested to table the minutes from November 16<sup>th</sup> for the next meeting since they are currently incomplete. **Don** motioned to table said minutes, **David W.** seconded, tabled 4-0.

**RESCUE:** No update available. The Board discussed the necessity of mapping out what the new powers of the Advisory Board (AB) are. **Seth** asked for suggestions. Firstly, monthly financial/operational reporting. Second, on-time minutes and agendas. The possibility of a Prudential Committee (PC) member alternating visiting AB meetings with an AB member coming to the PC meetings was discussed. Operations MUST run by the approved budget. PC inclusion in hiring/firing decisions with regard to any Administrator or Deputy. The definition of members of the AB from its creation back in February was reviewed, and it was decided needs to be re-written. PC must approve any/all materials to be distributed to the public beforehand. Annual Town Report moving forward should map out what types of calls were answered, not just the total. The discussion then turned towards worry about micro managing the AB and most of the the above suggestions were dismissed. The main suggestion that carried forward was that any necessary overages from the budget must come through the PC before transactions occur. It was decided that **Seth** will speak with Mary Gavin and have the AB come up with their list and then go from there.

**FIRE:** The Chief was not in attendance; no update was available. The following budget items were discussed: Rescue Squad Fire House Bay in the Fire House. Worried the amount is too low, not feasible. The plan is for a trial year at that amount (which was based upon previous utility averages), and that the amount will be revisited annually. Vehicle Maintenance and payroll services costs were also discussed minimally. **Don** motioned to approve the Fire Budget for FY '18, **David W.** seconded, budget passed 4-0.

**WATER:** **Wayne** advised that he was unable to paint the two plant buildings before the weather turned too cold. He advised that he may possibly be able to do it next summer, but that [we] should also obtain quotes from painting companies and the cost of vinyl siding. He said the plant will need new Chlorine monitors (2) which cost about \$7,500 each. Also, a raw water sampling line will need replacing in the spring as well. A licensed plumber will need to do so, and it will most likely not fall outside of his repairs budget. **Wayne** reported he put in a meter chamber for the Cole/Obuchowski line, and that someone else completed all other work. Two lines were put down the one ditch. Both houses were connected without problems, and have plenty of pressure.

Questions arose about the meeting minutes from the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with the property owners. Permission was given to tap into Jim Ballou's line if he was ok with it, but they were not allowed to tap the main. The second curbstob that Obuchowski tied into did not have any documentation and presumably not owned by anyone.

Concerns of the customer were raised and discussed. **David** questioned the need for a licensed plumber based on a conversation he had with the customer in passing. **Wayne** said that did not tell Cole that he needed a licensed plumber to do the project, but that it made him more comfortable for the District's position. **Wayne** advised that he turned off the water to the houses after he was informed of the leak. **Seth** asked if we could set forth regulations for procedure if this happens again.

Discussion started about why **Wayne** was sent a special invitation to this meeting. **Seth** advised that, as an employee of the District, he would have received a formal request to discuss and clarify the situation at a meeting. He did so to better the Fire District's employee practices. A heated discussion ensued about customer service and ended with no resolution.

**RFD:** The legal reporting date having passed for the annual meeting, it was rescheduled to Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. **Heidi** will see if [we] can have the meeting at the Royalton Town Office. Once she confirms, she will then send **Wayne** the edited warning for submission to the Town, and they will both post around Town. Suggestions for a new Board member were Frank Lamson & Kyle Jones. The regular meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup> will occur. The PC approved the office to close for the 27<sup>th</sup>. **Heidi** was given permission to get/send a get well card to Bill Ballou.

**Wayne** motioned to adjourn, **Don** seconded, and the meeting ended at 8:50pm 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi L Vogt, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper