

Royalton Fire District #1 Prudential Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2016

Members attending: **Bill Ballou** – Chair, **Wayne Manning** – Treasurer/Clerk, **David Whitney** – Member, **Don Lovejoy** – Member

Officers attending: **Paul Brock** – Fire Chief/Chief Engineer, **David Palmer** – Rescue Administrator/Town Health Officer, **Phil Gates** – Advisory Board member/Royalton Selectboard Member, **Heidi Vogt** – Assistant Clerk/Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by **Bill**.

There were no walk-ins.

David W. motioned to accept minutes from August 24th as submitted, **Don** seconded, and the minutes passed 3-1. **Wayne** abstained due to his absence from the meeting. The Agenda was reviewed and amended to skip Fire items due to lack of attendance. **Don** motioned to accept the agenda as amended, **David W.** seconded, and the agenda passed 4-0.

RESCUE: Update: Calls as of 9/13/16 year to date comparisons were as follows: 2016 – 283, 2015 – 213, 2014 – 226, 2013 – 209. The Advisory Committee met tonight. One item discussed was the new sick leave law to start January 1st, 2017. The new law states that [we] need to allow qualified employees to accrue sick time at a minimum of 1 hour for every 52 hours worked. It is not required that it be paid/used until the following calendar year. The minimum 24 hours accrual (8 hr work day) for an annual basis will rise in 2018 to 40 hours per calendar year. This law applies to companies whom have more than 5 employees. It is suspected to cost the Rescue Squad roughly \$6,500 per year. **Phil** on behalf of the Advisory Board proposed a rate system for Non-Transport rescue calls. The auto accident call rate being \$200/call. All other non-transport calls (excluding lift-assists) will be \$150/call. The collection rate for these types of billings is 33%. These items WILL be covered by our subscription program. **David W.** suggests/requests sending all proposals in writing or via official minutes from the Advisory so the entire Prudential Board may “sign-off” on the item. **Phil** will have the Advisory return with paperwork for the next meeting. **Phil** also advised the Board about the upcoming State Provider Tax which starts March, 2017. This tax is based upon the previous fiscal year’s patient care income. The rate is 3.63%. It is unclear if the total will include transports to Dartmouth Hitchcock. If it does not, [our] billing company will track those transports separately. **David W.** concerned if [we] can survive with all of these added expenses. The Advisory has been discussing and researching, and feels that [we] will at least break even. The billing company is currently researching the amount of income that is generated from Dartmouth Hitchcock transports. **David P.** reported that the annual Fair coin drop will start tomorrow morning. **Phil** reported that the Advisory Committee has requested a special meeting, to be held in executive session, in order to discuss personnel. The date suggested was Thursday, October 5th @ 7pm. The advisory’s next regular meeting will be Thursday, September 22nd.

FIRE: The Fire topic list was returned to the agenda since Mr. Brock arrived late. **Paul** reported that, after researching the Journey church property further, he and the Selectboard decided to not move further. Brownfields issues and mold were the reason. **Paul** advised that Gateway is putting together a municipal financing package for the Fire Department’s new utility truck. This paperwork, as well as a contract for Dingee to do the body of the truck. There is no known down payment required, and the truck will not arrive until February. **Wayne** voiced his concern with the care of current trucks after reviewing a recent maintenance invoice from KME. **Paul** assured Wayne that the trucks were receiving care in between KME visits (this time they were unable to come here for 2 years!) by Lucky’s. Also, that since the trucks sit more than run certain items will need replacing.

WATER: **Wayne** reported that the hydrant behind the law school is broken again. Someone hit it and the breakaway collar was damaged. He is unsure of when it occurred, however it will need to be dug up and repaired. **Wayne** also reported that the recent electrical storm damaged the gate control to the plant. **David W.** reported there has been a lot of vehicle traffic up there late at night as a result. The replacement cost will be roughly \$1,400. **Wayne** suggested dredging the sludge tank. Dimmik will do the service for roughly \$12 – \$14,000. **Wayne** has been working at making Lake John more accessible for him to continue with his storm clean up. There are currently still trees in Lake John, however he is close to getting them out. Reports for water quality are being sent out to customers on the system tomorrow. This report was supposed to be sent to patrons by July 1st, however the report was not received. Wayne had to physically call the State to obtain the report. The Royalton School recently called for the results and date of the testing. **Phil** mentioned that the sewer department used 36,000 gallons on the Fire House meter for sewer line flushing. **Heidi** informed the Board that a property currently under Tax Lien by [us] is currently up for tax sale. The new owner will be responsible for payment upon sale.

Wayne motioned to adjourn, **Bill** seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm 4-0.

Respectfully submitted, Heidi L Vogt, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 28th, 2016