

Royalton Fire District #1 Prudential Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2016

Members attending: **Seth Stoddard** – Vice-Chair, **Wayne Manning** – Treasurer/Clerk, **Don Lovejoy** – Member
Officers attending: **Paul Brock** – Fire Chief/Chief Engineer, **David Palmer** – Rescue Administrator/Town Health Officer, **Heidi Vogt** – Assistant Clerk/Treasurer
Guests attending: **Brent Lehouiller** – Chief of Operations, Oxbow Maple, LLC

Seth called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

There were no walk-ins.

Wayne motioned to accept minutes from September 14th as submitted, **Don** seconded. The minutes were not passed due to lack of a quorum. **Seth** abstained since he was absent. The Agenda was reviewed and amended to skip Collections Policy and Non-Transport Charges. Executive Session for Employee Incident was added to Rescue. **Wayne** motioned to accept the agenda as amended, **Don** seconded, and the agenda passed 3-0.

WATER: Brent Lehouiller of Oxbow Maple, LLC presented the Company's proposal to tap the RFD1 property opposite the interstate. Damage that occurred during the July wind storms was discussed. The RFD1 property sustained minimal damage in comparison to the Oxbow lots. Distances and property layout were discussed. Oxbow Maple is proposing to lease the trees on the property, as well as assist the RFD1 in forest and trail maintenance. The proposal involves "dead-ending" all tap lines to remain out of sight of the trail system. There will be one 1.5" line crossing the trail – however it will be raised high in the air to appear like power lines. This line will be necessary to reach the remaining 78 acres on the other side of the trail system. The Company uses the stricter VT State Guidelines for their rules of operation and forest tapping. There is no need to make new trails due to the current system in place as well as old roads which conveniently circle the property. A minimum 10-year lease would be necessary due to initial investment costs. There are roughly 10,000 maples and 4,000 birch trees for tapping. At the current State standard, this could mean \$10 - \$12,000 a year income for the RFD1. Five-year lease renewals after the initial 10 years will be fine. Also, the set up can be in phases if the Board feels it's needed. The first half of the property which abuts the Oxbow lot would act as a probationary service for the Board to see how the Company handles the property before extending to the remaining acreage. **Paul** sees this as an opportunity for the RFD1 to do some much needed cutting. Currently there is no means of removing the cut wood from the property. **Brent** suggested [we] do the cutting before the tapping, and that they are willing to improve their "roads" to allow for logging access since the same needs to be done to their lots. **Seth** asked what the down side to this seemingly perfect proposal would be. **Brent** reported that there is a time limit to their ability to expend time and investment on this property. They are currently free and will be for all of 2017, but past that there is another large operation on their agenda that would not allow for any other project. This winter would be the perfect time for the two Companies to log the lots together, with involvement from [our] forester. **Seth** asked when they would like an answer? **Brent** expressed their hope for at least an interest from the Board tonight so that he may put together an official proposal to include a lease/contract for the October 12th Prudential Committee meeting. He also added that Oxbow Maple does not post their property against hunting and encourages people to use their trails. Their hope is to connect [our] trails with theirs to make a wonderful loop for hikers, and an easier way down from Kent's Ledge that our trails do not offer. The Board unanimously agreed for him to move forward for the next meeting.

Update: **Wayne** informed the Board that he is gaining on tree removal from the storms, and the water levels are holding.

FIRE: **Paul** requested signing of a contract with Larry Dingee to build the body of the newly approved Fire Utility Truck. **Seth, Don,** and **Paul** signed – **David P.** witnessed. The financial strategy was reviewed.

RESCUE: Update: There will be a District wide emergency drill in the spring. Calls as of 9/27/16 year to date comparisons were as follows: 2016 – 299, 2015 – 225, 2014 – 236, 2013 – 218. **Heidi** will be inquiring with the billing company as to why the income hasn't follow the same incline as calls. **David** recently completed a walk through at High Horses Farm at their request due to the incident last year. He feels that all is well. He also did a Fallscales presentation at the Thompson Senior Center which gained [us] three new customers.

The Board went into Executive Discussion at 8:05pm to discuss reprimand which was given to a Rescue employee. **Heidi** stepped out. Executive Session ended at 8:14pm. **Heidi** was informed that there were no decisions necessary.

David requested that the Advisory Board include ambulance body work funds in the new budget, he will be getting quotes for their use of the work necessary. He also reported that the new time clock system is working well and helping to “keep people honest”. The Rescue Department passed their State Inspection today with flying colors. The Chief of EMS even visited the department!

Wayne motioned to adjourn, **Don** seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:24pm 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi L Vogt, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 12th, 2016