

MINUTES

Royalton Fire District #1 Prudential Committee Annual Meeting

Date | time 1/8/2018 7:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Keith Grimes

In Attendance

Prudential Committee: Keith Grimes-Acting Chair, Don Lovejoy, David Whitney, Kyle Jones

Officers: Paul Brock, Fire Chief/Chief Engineer
Wayne Manning, Water Operator
Jerry Barcelow-Advisory South Royalton Representative
Gidget Lyman-Advisory South Royalton Representative
Corinne Ingraham-Advisory South Royalton Representative
Theron Manning, Moderator
Heidi Vogt, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

Public in Attendance: Bruce Tibbetts, Marion Whitney, Paul Whitney

Voters of the Royalton Fire District #1 met at the Royalton Town Offices to transact the following business in accordance with Title 20 VSA 2483:

1. Approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting:

Minutes were reviewed and amended as follows: Page 2, heading #15, "cote" was changed to "vote". Page 2, heading #16, "January 9th" was changed to "8th". Keith motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Don seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

2. To elect a Moderator for one year:

Keith nominated Theron, David seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

3. To elect a Clerk for one year:

Don nominated Wayne whom declined, withdrawing Don's motion. Paul B nominated Don, Kyle seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

4. To hear and act upon the reports of the officers; 5/6/7: To review and vote upon the fiscal year 2019 budget for the Fire/Water/Rescue Departments:

FIRE: Paul B. reported 57 total calls, a low for us. Structure fire totals stayed the same at 7, with 3 being mutual aid. The new utility truck is nearing completion. [We] are hoping for this week or next. Many hours have gone into training this year, but the Department would like to see more younger volunteers. FIRE BUDGET: Paul B advised he moved moneys around in the budget to stay as close to level funding as possible. Capital reserves are at \$25,000 due to aging equipment/trucks in hopes of avoiding the need for a bond in the future. Town appropriation requested for FY19 is \$77939 vs \$77250 this FY. Total expenses for the year come to \$90,339. Paul thanked the Fire &

Rescue Association for their contributions. Keith motioned to accept the budget as submitted, David seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

RESCUE & BUDGET: Jerry reported that they FY17 ended almost \$38,000 ahead for insurance income. With expenses being \$3,000 under, \$41,000 in the green. These number have not been audited yet, but [we] have found a new auditor and will be audited soon. The Rescue Squad has a new bookkeeper, alleviating much burden from Heidi's day to day workload, Angela Russell. Sharon and Tunbridge both researched other services for less cost. Though they signed 3-year contracts with us afterwards, [we] must be mindful of increasing budget numbers moving forward. This year necessitated raising town appropriations by \$0.90. David Palmer has been excellent in controlling the Squads expenses, especially in employee time management. He also recently acquired a \$10,000 grant from the Fallscales program which has been put in the new vehicle fund. The per capita rate was raised \$0.96 from last fiscal year, making the per capita rate \$55.97. The Squads biggest challenges are: 1. Vehicle reliability: There has been much struggle with the 2011 ambulance maintenance & keeping it consistently on the road. A spare truck has been purchased from White River Valley Ambulance, but has also needed more maintenance than expected. It should be on the road soon, however, as there is just one mount needed for the stretcher. [We] are currently researching grants for a new vehicle. 2. A new home: While the Fire house has been comfortable, convenient, and more than generous – the welcome has been more than worn. This is a hope for the next 5 years, but is in the very early stages of research including possible grants for funding. 3. Employee Pay: Remains the lowest in the area and will need to change. 4. David Palmer Contract: He will not be renewing. These are big shoes to fill. 5. RFD ownership: Taking the burden off of the Fire District is also a goal for the next few years. A lot of research has been done, and a lot more is needed. Paul B. motioned to accept Jerry's report & the Rescue budget, David seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

WATER & BUDGET: Wayne advised that usage at the plant is nearing maximum capacity according to State regulations. Two filters need to be replaced, and a third added to increase max capacity. This will also result in a building addition, and a bond vote. Lake John is also still in need of repairs. Heidi reviewed the budget, few changes- only increases in the capital funding areas. The suggested rate for next year is \$1.94/100 gallons. Paul motioned to accept the budget as presented, Don seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed. Don thanked Keith for his collection efforts.

8. To elect a Chief Engineer for one year:

Keith nominated Paul Brock, Paul W. seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

9. To elect a Treasurer for one year:

Paul B. nominated Keith whom declined, thus withdrawing Paul's motion. Theron suggested that whomever becomes Chair should take the responsibility, being able to hire a Treasurer thereon. Jerry requested to change the order of items next year to hold elections before Treasurer/Clerk. Paul B. motioned that the new chairperson oversees hiring of a Treasurer living within our outside of the District, with Board approval, whom would oversee the Bookkeeper, Keith seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

10. To elect a Tax Collector for one year:

No action was taken.

11. To elect a collector of Delinquent Taxes for one year:

No action was taken.

12. To elect an Auditor for one year:

The Board recently accepted a proposal from RHR out of Buxton, ME as Angolano is no longer in the business.

13. To elect two members to the Prudential Committee for a term of one year:

David announced he will be stepping down. Don nominated Bruce Tibbetts, Kyle seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed. The Board will continue to search for someone to fill the remaining one-year position.

14. To elect a member to the Prudential Committee for a three-year term:

Paul B. nominated Keith, Paul W. seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

15. To elect a member to the Prudential Committee for the remaining two years of a three-year term:

Keith nominated Kyle, Paul Whitney seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

16/17. To set a water rate for the district patrons & patrons outside of the district for the coming year:

Keith motioned to set the rate at \$1.94/100 gallons as presented, Paul B seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

18. To vote a sum of money to determine the tax rate for the district:

Paul B. motioned to set the sum at \$0, Kyle seconded, and with no further discussion the motion passed.

19. To set a meeting date for the next annual meeting:

The date was set for January 7th, 2019 at 7pm.

20. To transact any other non-binding business proper to be brought before this meeting:

There were many thank-you's for David Whitney's time spent on the Prudential Committee. There were thank-you's for Heidi's work done the last 4.5 years for the RFD.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi L. Vogt, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant