

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Royalton Fire District 1

Monday, January 11, 2021 7 pm via Zoom

Present: Paul Brock, Fire Chief; Corrinne Ingraham, Chair Rescue Squad Advisory Committee; Becky Owen, Rescue Squad; Victoria Paquin, Rescue Squad; Judy Hayward, Prudential Committee; Theron Manning, Chair, Prudential Committee; John Dettwiler, Prudential Committee; Wayne Manning, Water Superintendent; Chad Barnaby, Prudential Committee; Don Lovejoy, Clerk, Prudential Committee

Acting as Moderator, Theron Manning called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

A motion to amend the agenda was made by Don Lovejoy with a second from John Dettwiler to include the Election of Theron Manning to fill the remaining two years of Keith Grimes' term.

The Motion carried unanimously.

Don Lovejoy made the motion to approve the agenda as amended with a second from John Dettwiler. **The motion carried Unanimously.**

Elections

Election of Moderator

Theron explained that he had not been on the Prudential Committee and is now. He asked if anyone felt that he should not serve as moderator. There was no objection.

Judy Hayward made a motion to elect Theron Manning as moderator for one year; John Dettwiler made a second to the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Judy Hayward made a motion that Theron Manning should complete two years of the three-year term to which K Grimes had been elected last year. Paul Brock made a second to the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Judy Hayward made a motion to elect John Dettwiler to the Prudential Committee for a term of three years; Don Lovejoy made the second to the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Don Lovejoy made a motion with a second from John Dettwiler that Judy Hayward be elected to the Prudential Committee for one year. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Judy Hayward made a motion to elect Chad Barnaby to the Prudential Committee for one year and Don Lovejoy made a second to the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Judy Hayward made a motion to nominate Don Lovejoy for the position of Clerk for a term of one year; John Dettwiler made a second to the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Theron Manning indicated that we should pass over the election of a treasurer. He noted that we have a bookkeeper and that an accounting firm is hired annually to audit our books.

A motion was made by Judy Hayward with a second to the motion from John Dettwiler to elect Paul Brock as chief engineer for one year. **Motion carries unanimously.**

Rescue

Corrinne Ingraham, Chair, South Royalton Rescue Squad, presented the report.

438 calls were made during the fiscal year. The Rescue Squad is staffed 24/7. They are vigilant with precautions for Covid-19 as some patients with it have been transported. Training- Oxygen system offering pain relief was purchased and an advanced EMT can administer it. Steve Belmont resigned in December; he may come back and fill in on a shift. The advisory board meets monthly. Jerry Barcelow has left the advisory group; Chris Noble from the Selectboard is now on the group. Corrinne will meet with the Prudential Committee monthly. Becky Owen is acting administrator. Interview process for a new administrator is underway. 8 people have taken the vaccine or will be taking it. Victoria discussed the budget for FY 22. Rates remain flat. Budget is essentially level funded. There was an operating profit in FY 20 and those funds go to the reserve. **Motion to accept the budget as presented was made by John Dettwiler and Don Lovejoy made the second to the motion which carried unanimously.**

Fire

Fire Chief Paul Brock presented his report. Please see the attached. He noted that only 30 manhours over FY 19 totals were required. . Short calls predominate. Recruitment is working well. We have six new members including 2 boys who are Junior members from the Royalton school. Many people are aging out. There are 25 fireman total with about 18 who are active. Budget is down a little over FY 20. Any surplus goes into reserve. The last fire truck did not require taxpayer support; Paul hopes we can put money away annually so that we can do that again. Equipment needs are minimal. Paul does not anticipate any major problems. They are following Covid protocols. Trainings are being done outside. John Dettwiler made a motion to approve the budget with a second to the motion from Don Lovejoy. **The motion passed unanimously.** Judy and John commended Paul for painting the fire station.

Water

Prudential Committee Chair Theron Manning made the annual report for the water department.

Special Meeting - March 16, 2020 for Bond Vote of \$2,950,000.00 (approved by a vote of 16 – 12.)

Pandemic has caused a significant delay in the approval process and overall schedule.

VT. Department of Environmental Conversation, Patrick Smart no longer works for the State.

Celia Riechel, P.E. & Cynthia Parks, Construction Engineer for the State Water Investment Division.

We are also working with Ashley Lucht , Director of Capital Planning of Vermont Bond Bank.

- 1) Need to submit approved budget for this year.
- 2) Need to certify the bond vote which is currently in process.
- 3) The State is concerned about debt service (our ability to pay for this project as planned)
- 4) Impact of water reduction due to potentially VTC pulling out of town.
- 5) Working with Wayne to potentially reduce this project. (Could eliminate the storage tank)
- 6) Impact of Pandemic could create a financial hardship on materials and labor of project.

Lake John Project

- 1) Project Engineering Documents currently at 60% estimated to cost \$450,000 to \$750,000.
- 2) State Safety Engineer identified several maintenance issues if we are continuing its use.
- 3) Rated as a Significant Hazard to the Community.
- 4) We need to evaluate Pros & Cons of maintaining Lake John or providing alternate storage.

Discussion about Lake John took place. . Even if we do all the work, it will still be a significant hazard to the community. The lake contains 7 Million gallons of water; if it breaches, it will find its way to the village. The State would prefer we abandon it and find a storage alternative. The State inspection process is likely to accelerate. Don, Judy, and John agreed that we must look at an alternative to Lake John.

Water Meter Replacement project.

- 1) Current meters are 30 – 40 years old and need to be updated.
- 2) Need to go to a wireless system to reduce failure rate of remote wiring.
- 3) Need to improve billable gallons to production which is only about 50- 60%

Judy presented the water department budget- the income is essentially level funded, and the expenses are projected to be six percent less than the 2021 budget. The budget is attached.

Don Lovejoy made a motion to accept the budget with a second to the motion from John Dettwiler Motion carried; Judy abstained.

Water Rate

The sense of the meeting is that the water rate for the year cannot be set due to the unpredictable usage with the Pandemic. We agreed to leave the rate to the discretion of the Prudential Committee for each billing period.

Tax rate.

Paul Brock moved to set it at zero; Don Lovejoy made the second to the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Other business- none.

Motion to adjourn was made by Judy Hayward with a second to the motion by Don Lovejoy. **Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm**

The Next Annual Meeting will be Monday, January 10, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy L. Hayward

Administrative Assistant