



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FIRE DISTRICT #2

20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075
Tel: (413) 534-5748 - Fax: (413) 517-6054

Minutes of March 7, 2024

Convened: 5:32

Adjourned 6:10 p.m.

Present:

Prudential Committee Chair: Kenneth LeBlanc

Members: Robert Bak

Kenneth McKenna

South Hadley District #2: Chief Todd Calkins

Others Present: Linda Young

Granby Fire Chief Michael O'Neill

Meeting called to order by Chairman LeBlanc. He announced that the meeting is being recorded.

Prudential Committee Discussion Items

Fire Chief Position-Discuss outside assessment

K. LeBlanc discussed the proposal on the table for hiring an assessment center. He said he had looked through it; the other two PC members acknowledged they had also reviewed it. He said he spoke with Wayne Sampson of Public Safety Consultants, LLC, who told him they did the assessment center for Fire District 1 and it went well. He further stated that he discussed the whole process and was told the PC will have input. The assessment will include some outside investigating ie asking questions around the fire house etc. The PC will have an opportunity to sit and talk with the applicants. He was instructed that any question asked of one applicant would need to be asked of all applicants. K. McKenna asked if the assessment center would make a recommendation in the end. K. LeBlanc said each applicant would get a score and there would be a write up on each. The cost on the assessment agreement is \$4,300. K. McKenna mentioned that they have held assessments at the college in the past and it worked out well. Chief O'Neill asked if they would include a fire problem in the assessment, mentioning that District 1, did not include one. K. LeBlanc read from the proposal the design assessment center exercises may include the following:

Oral interview/Rapid fire questions

Neighborhood meeting/citizen interview

Written exercise/Program development

Tactical operations exercise

Personnel problem

Labor relations/union grievance

Media interview

Fire equipment training

Copies of all applicant's information including cover letters etc will be sent to W. Sampson and K. McKenna (newly elected PC member).

There was general discussion regarding the benefits of the assessment center. Chief Calkins stated his retirement date is May 22, 2024.

K. McKenna made a motion to accept the Public Safety Consultant, LLC assessment center proposal in the amount of \$4,300. R. Bak second. Motion passed unanimously.

K. LeBlanc stated the process to begin within seven days from the date they signed the contract.

PC members signed the proposal.

K. McKenna asked for an update on what's coming up; just to get him ready as a new PC member. R. Bak responded they would be working on the budget. K. LeBlanc mentioned the upcoming DLTA meeting. Chief offered to have K. McKenna come in and meet with him to review plans and projects to get him up to speed. There was discussion regarding the DLTA meetings and the non-binding question on the S. Hadley ballot.

Chief Calkins proposes a change to the phone reimbursement. He stated the Town of Granby supplies Fire Chief and Police with phones. Chief Calkin's proposes to supply the Fire Chief and the daytime Captain with cell phones and eliminate cell phone reimbursement payments to the other full-time members, eliminating the use of personal phones. He has discussed this with the fulltime members. There will need to be an integration between MHC dispatch, S. Hadley police D2's First Due with CAD to populate information pertinent onto the iPad screen. He proposes iPads be put in Engine 2, Engine 4, A1, A2 and the Chief's car. Chief Calkins stated that all of MHC will be going to a completely addressable campus because of 911, currently all of MHC is 50 College Street.

K. McKenna asked how negotiations with MHC are going. K. LeBlanc responded everyone is on board with the collections. K. McKenna asked if D2 still receives the 20K per year for equipment. Chief Calkins said we lost that when MHC began doing the dispatching. We still receive the 20K annually for the ambulance payments.

The next Prudential Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Treasurer

Minutes approved _____