

Wallingford Fire District #1
MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
August 4, 2021

Called to Order:

Kandie called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with Bill Brooks, Kevin Vaughn and Marianne McClure, the clerk/treasurer present.

Agenda Additions/Deletions:

Marianne received the quote for the repairs on the tractor from Mountainview Equipment. The quote is \$795. Marianne also stated that Kyle from Mountainview said that the front end of the tractor looked pretty stressed out with heavy attachments. Marianne said that we use a v-plow on the front end of it to plow the sidewalks in the Winter. Kyle asked if it was a John Deere plow. It isn't, therefore, Kyle said it is too heavy for the front end and it will keep stressing it out and we will have a similar situation like the last time when the front axle broke last year. Bill asked Marianne to contact Kyle and ask him if there was a beefier axle or front-end parts that may help with the stress of the plow.

Marianne stated that Mark Barone from the FD had contacted her about an emergency purchase. One of the gas meters had failed and needed a new oxygen sensor. Cost to replace was \$357.37.

Anne Awad and Melissa Whittemore from Highland Estates joined the meeting. Anne is the new President for Highland Water Association. Anne and Melissa have been doing some research and found out that there is grant money available to help with water systems. Melissa stated that they have had to chase leaks all the time with their water association. Kandie also said that the Fire District has had to chase leaks as well. Melissa said that they need to be a bigger association to apply for these grants and was wondering if the Fire District applied, could they piggy back with the District. She also stated that since we are much bigger, we can apply for a much larger grant. Anne stated that she has written several grants and would be willing to do all of the work. The only thing that they would need is Marianne to register on the USDA.gov site where she would receive a code and get the application. That way Anne can work with Marianne on the grant. All of this would be looked over and approved by the Prudential Committee before it is sent in. Bill asked Melissa how many homes were in the Association. Melissa said 25-30 homes and 7-10 camps in the Summer. Marianne is going to look into the website and the application. A couple questions Bill had were if we can qualify for our own money or if would have to go through the Town, and if we are a part of the \$204,000 that the Town is already receiving, would the District get any of that. Marianne will research this and it will be discussed again at the next Prudential Committee Meeting.

Visitors:

Jason Stone, Anne Awad, Melissa Whittemore

Approval for Minutes:

Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes from July 21, 2021, Bill seconded it. With no further discussion the motion carried (3-0).

Approval for the Fire District Pay Order:

Bill made the motion to approve the pay orders as presented and it was seconded by Kevin. With no discussion the motion carried (3-0).

Old Business:

Bill stated that he had gone to the Selectboard meeting Monday night regarding the Sidewalks. It was stated that in 2003 they did get a grant for the sidewalks. The Selectboard said they are willing to share expenses. Kandie stated that the sidewalks benefit everyone and that they should be charged by the Town as it would go on everyone's tax bill in Wallingford. She said if the District did it that only people in the Fire District would be charged. She also stated that if the Town and Selectboard shared the expenses, that the Fire District residents would end up being charged twice. Once on the Towns tax bills and second on the Fire District water and sewer bill as the Fire District tax. Bill stated that Sandi is looking into some grant possibilities for the Fire District and the Selectboard. Bill also said he would be attending other Selectboard meetings regarding the sidewalks and the Board's concerns.

New Business:

Jason Stone joined the meeting with some questions on his water bill. Jason has bought several properties in Town and made them into apartments. He recently purchased several meters and installed them so that each tenant is responsible for their own water and sewer consumption. He used his property at 5 North Main Street as an example. 5 North Main Street has 4 different tenants in there. When he received the bill in the mail, he was charged for 4 Water Bonds, one for each apartment. His question was why was he being charged for a water bond on each apartment as in the previous bills he was only charged with one. Marianne stated that each apartment is a new resident and 1 ERU. Marianne also split all of the bills and billed all tenants separately and billed Jason for the Fire District Tax on the building, and the Water Bond charge for each apartment as that is the homeowner's responsibility to pay. In the previous bill it was charged as the whole building before he had split it into apartments. Marianne spoke to Chris about this and he had said the same thing. That he should be charged as it is a new resident and a new resident is 1 ERU. Chris also said that he understood Jason's view as well, that it is one home. Chris said it comes down to what is in our water ordinance, etc. for the Bond, and that it is the Board's decision to make. Marianne printed the Water Ordinance and Charter for the board and they will look it over and discuss again at their next meeting.

The board went over the monthly financials and signed off on them.

The board went over the End of Year Budget numbers for Fiscal Year 20-21.

Public Comments:

None

Other Business/Announcements:

None

Executive Session:

None

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will be scheduled on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Fire District office.

Adjournment:

Bill made the motion that the meeting adjourn and Kevin seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marianne McClure - Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: 09/01/2021