

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

Page 1 of 1

PRESENT: Carlton B. Crocker, John Lacoste, David Lawler, Prudential Committee; Judith Sprague, Clerk/Treasurer; Krystal Abrams, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer, Craig Crocker; Water Superintendent; Chief Winn, Fire Chief

Also Present: Byron Eldridge, Deputy; J. Douglas Murphy, Counsel; Jason Davern, EMS Officer; Mike Rogers, Local 2346

The meeting convened at 10:04 a.m.

Public Comment: None allowed per pandemic.

Carlton Crocker: Carlton started by recognizing the Chief and Deputy Chief for all they have been doing for this District during a difficult last couple of months and stated they have managed to handle it extremely well. He appreciates all the critical information they have been getting out to everyone and acknowledged that it puts us way ahead of the curve. Chief responded by saying it is an entire department effort and everyone has stepped up and they appreciate the support. Carlton distributed a statement he produced over the weekend in regards to our Annual Election and Meeting that will be postponed until June 22nd and June 23rd due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Carlton's statement includes the necessary action of the Prudential Committee to hold a Special District Meeting prior to the Annual to change the quorum requirement which is at 50 registered voters, in order to meet the Governors order of no group gatherings of more than 10 individuals. This change needs to be a unanimous vote from the Prudential Committee. David Lawler agreed this is extreme circumstances and under the Governors orders a of state of emergency. He stated we are first a health and safety organization and we cannot jeopardize our underlying fundamental charge based formalities, it is within our authority based upon these circumstances to delay the meeting and adjust the quorum as indicated by Carlton and he is in favor of this. John Lacoste is also in favor. Doug Murphy was unclear if the Prudential Committee was voting today to adjust the quorum, Carlton Crocker indicated this statement is not a motion, we are voting today to agree to write an article for the Special Meeting that will be held prior to the Annual Meeting, that will still need a quorum of 25, but to adjust the quorum for all future meetings. Since this is urgent circumstances we can hold the special meeting prior to the Annual even though it is within the 90 day limit between meetings. It is an option to hold the meeting virtually through the website as well but we have no way of counting who is attending the meeting, individuals would just be able to watch it.

David Lawler made a motion to postpone the election and meeting based upon the discussions that have taken place due to the circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting problems. John Lacoste seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Winn stated that his only request is that whatever format that we have meeting and election held under, it has to comply with whatever the latest recommendations are as far as crowds. They are willing to open the apparatus bays for the election and meeting, and have folks walk in one door and out another door never coming inside the building. We would be in competition with the alarms going off but he believes we could manage a meeting. Judy stated that as far as workers for the election and meeting, we would only have one person for sign in and one for sign out and one person run the ballot box. Judy said she would put the offer out to her three healthiest individuals who usually work the election and meeting, if they still want to do it. Otherwise Krystal, herself and Krystal's mother can work it without a problem. Chief Winn and John Lacoste also volunteered to help. The voting hours are 9am-3pm which is in compliance for at least four hours. David Lawler said he would prefer to rent a tent from a company within the District to keep people out of the building to keep our people safe. The tent was agreed upon. People can still request to have an Absentee Ballot sent out to them by calling the Prudential Office or sending an email. Annual Warrant books will be mailed to all households since we won't have the attendance, we want to make sure everyone has access to what's going to happen. Judy gave everyone at the meeting a copy of the warrant book to review and let her know if there are any corrections. Judy distributed two spreadsheets, one with all the Chief's original articles besides the ambulance which leaves the tax rate at about \$1.45 or the second spreadsheet, without the two vehicle articles it reduces the tax rate to \$1.43. Chief said he is comfortable taking the articles of the two vehicles out. It was agreed upon to leave the two vehicle articles out and the tax rate at \$1.43.

David Lawler made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting to eliminate the requirement of a quorum, to amend the By-Laws to reflect the same and to take effect immediately. John Lacoste seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carlton stated he had a discussion with Chairman Mark MacAllister as well and speaking for himself, Mark agreed to the zero quorum and he thought his board would agree also. Judy stated she gave the board copies of the management letter from the auditor from the final audit of FY19 for them to review.

John A. Lacoste made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting as printed, David Lawler seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Winn: Chief Winn stated he had one business item that needs to be addressed. They were contacted by Dowling & O'Neil last week about our policy renewal. They offered us two proposals, one almost identical to last years and the other reflects a \$56,000 increase which would bring back the wage indemnification that we decided last year to discontinue. With a new emphasis on the wage indemnification for cancer diagnosis. There was a discussion of current practices and the Chief's input. It was decided to go with the second proposal with the increase and with the wage indemnification.

Next meeting: To be determined.

Public Comment: None allowed per pandemic.

David Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. John A Lacoste seconded the motion. It was a unanimous vote.

Krystal Abrams, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer