

Royalton Fire District 1 Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 7:00 pm

Zoom and In-person at the RFD1 office, 55 North Street

Theron Manning, Chair; Don Lovejoy, John Dettwiler, Ryan Britch, Judy Hayward, and Wayne Manning, Water Superintendent

Theron called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

We reviewed the Agenda and added Radio Station discussion and Bar Harbor Line of Credit update. John made a motion to approve the agenda as revised; Don Lovejoy made a second to the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

There were no Public Comments, and no one was attending by Zoom, so we did not record the meeting.

The Minutes of January 25, 2023, were reviewed with one correction. The original amount of the Engineering compensation increase was \$42,800. Motion to approve as corrected was made by Don Lovejoy with a second from John Dettwiler. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

Rescue Squad Report- In Corinne Ingraham's absence, Theron reported on some notes that she has sent him. They are working on grants for the project. They may hire a consultant to help with fundraising. Theron is hoping we have plans drawn up by an architect of the proposed building to review soon.

Old Business

Theron will look at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns model ordinance to use as a substitute for bylaws since municipalities do not generally use bylaws.

Judy will send out the newly signed Rules and Regulations to all Prudential Committee members.

Election of 2023 officers

Don made a motion that we keep the same slate officers for another year: Theron Manning, Chair; John Dettwiler, Vice Chair; Don Lovejoy, Clerk; and Judy Hayward, Acting Treasurer. and Judy Hayward made a second to the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman's Remarks- Theron Manning

Radio Station- Tim Murphy asked Theron to ask the PC to reconsider charging the radio station rent. Formerly it was free, but we needed to cover our costs, so we are charging them \$2,000 per year and one-third of the electrical usage for the chlorine building. The sense of the meeting is that we think they should continue to pay rent. The District should not be subsidizing them just because they offer a community service.

The Water Treatment Plant Project- The contractor plans to shut down on Feb. 23 for the rest of the winter. They hope to get the heat pump done and the office completed before they shut down.

USDA Loan for Lake John Project Update – Theron and Judy met with staff from the USDA, the State, and Dufresne Engineering. We need to decide if we want to proceed. We need to make a good faith effort so that USDA will not de-obligate the funds. The revised estimate for the repair of Lake John is \$700,400. Instead of \$580,000 estimated before the pandemic. Theron has asked Naomi to evaluate if it makes more sense to build a new dam rather than repair the old one. Currently Lake John holds 7 million gallons, and we might be able to reduce the gallons with a new dam. Naomi has prepared a draft of an application to the State Revolving Loan Fund to be placed on the priority list for funding in 2023 to secure an additional \$409,400 over and above the USDA grant/loan of \$270,00 and an initial grant of \$22,000.

Motion to approve the application was made by John Dettwiler with a second to the motion by Ryan Britch. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7:50 PM Water Superintendent Report – Wayne did not have anything to report on tonight. Judy reported that water usage continues to be down significantly over last year on a month-by-month comparison.

8:00 PM Administrative Assistant Report

Fall Billing/ Delinquency Update – A few bills have been paid and additional accounts are now on payment plans.

FY 22 Audit Update- Theron will review the audit and sign the approval letter and send it back to Judy.

Bar Harbor Bank Line of Credit. We were only able to use \$125,000 toward our expenses for this month. Apparently, the Line of Credit can not be used as revolving line of credit. Judy said this was a surprise to her. Bar Harbor says there is a law preventing a municipality from having a revolving line of credit. Judy will confirm that this is a State law, but in case we need to apply for another line of credit, she asked the Prudential Committee for authorization to apply for a new line. Don Lovejoy made a motion to approve applying for another line of credit for \$500,000 to be secured by the project funds. John Dettwiler made a second to the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Thanking Senator Sanders for the Congressionally Directed Funds- Judy reached out to Lorraine Atwood at VLGS to see if there was interest in a joint event to honor Sen. Sanders. Lorraine thought yes, but she will speak to the Dean and get back to Judy. Judy will draft a thank you letter for Theron to sign.

Blanch Eaton CD signatures for Mascoma Bank- Judy handed around signature cards so that we can change the signers on the Blanche Eaton CD.

Work Orders Don Lovejoy made a motion to pay the bills and John Dettwiler made a second to the motion. The work orders totaled \$3,730.94 for Water and \$2,170.78 for Fire. **The motion passed unanimously,**

Executive Session- We entered the executive session for a personnel matter at 8:10 and concluded the executive session at 8:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with a motion made by Judy Hayward. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy L. Hayward

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

DRAFT