

North Branch Fire District #1
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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North Branch Fire District #1, Prudential Committee, March 4, 2015.

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Hobart Terhune.

Members Present: Thomas Ferrazza, Hobie Terhune, Edward Barber and Daniel Facilla.

Absent: Robert Rubin.

Also Present: Bart Howes, Rebecca Snow and Linda Holland.

Public Comment: None.

Letters: Dated February 14, 2015 a letter from Berkley Assigned Risk Services thanking the Fire District for the time and courtesy extended to their loss prevention consultant during the recent survey of the treatment facility. At this time there are no safety recommendations to be addressed.

Dated February 24, 2015 a letter from Holland to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meade with copies of the March 5, 2012 and May 1, 2012 letters regarding the definition of a bedroom.

Dated February 25, 2015 a letter from Blue Cross-Blue Shield informing us that Blue Cross-Blue Shield has confirmed that information related to one or more of our covered members within the Anthem, Inc. data base that was compromised recently in what are described as a “very sophisticated criminal cyber-attack”. The members most likely received health care services in one of the 14 states in which Anthem operates, and whose coverage for those services was administered through reciprocal agreements Anthem has with other BCBS plans, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont.

Minutes: Ferrazza moved to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2015 as submitted. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Snow handed out a Profit and Loss/Budget vs. Actual sheet for the Committee to review. Facilla found the report was incorrect. Holland will go over the figures with Snow. Holland confirmed that the budgeted figures were correct.

Facilla moved to approve the monthly bills totaling \$32,890.21. Seconded by Ferrazza. After clarification of a couple bills the motion was carried in the affirmative.

Snow reported that the current prudent Capital Reserve is \$341,325.26.

Chief Operator's Report: Howes submitted the monthly written report indicating the hours of spray, rain/snow fall, pond level readings and pump station hours.

Howes reported that the new mixer has been installed in CLR 1 and the damaged one has been sent out for inspection and possible repair. The broken actuator in CLR 2 has been removed and inspected. The bronze drive nut has stripped out. Both a replacement and spare nut have been ordered.

Due to the bitter cold in February the staff could only spray on seven occasions. This has resulted in the holding pond being higher than normal. When possible the crew will begin spraying for extended hours to lower the pond prior to the spring thaw.

Howes feels that a schedule needs to be created for mandating all meters to be radio frequency meters. (RF) We currently have 1,877 meters, 709 of which are RF. Once all the commercial meters are installed we should have roughly 750. That is only 40% in 8 years as we began installing RF meters in January of 2007. Howes suggests a time frame of 2017 will enable us to have all meters installed and still hopefully have 10 years before meters and heads need to be replaced due to dead batteries.

Also discussed, is how the Prudential Committee can enforce the installation of the meters. Holland will seek legal advice through VLCT, to start, to see if a property manager can represent an absentee homeowner.

Facilla moved to authorize Howes to obtain a credit card for ordering parts and supplies, with a \$5,000.00 limit. The card will be used by Howes and Holland and will be kept secure in the office. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

Barber asked how the staff was getting along. Howes replied "the staff is doing good".

Review List for a 2015 Tax Sale: This matter has been tabled until the May 2015 meeting, as a group of people have set-up payment plans and Holland and Snow want to give these people the opportunity to honor their respective payment schedules.

Executive Session: Barber moved to go into Executive Session at 2:00 p.m. to discuss a legal matter under V.S.A. Section 313(a)(2). Seconded by Terhune. Passed unanimously. Ferrazza moved to come out of Executive Session at 2:17 p.m. Seconded by Facilla. Passed unanimously. **Decision:** To continue investigating the Fire District's legal options.

Other Business: The Prudential Committee agreed that property that must be inspected will be plowed and shoveled prior to an inspection. If the inspector finds the snow too

deep they will report it to the property manager and/or realtor and have the issue resolved.

Old Business: Update solar energy. School did discuss the solar project at the Town's Annual Meeting. However, they are concerned about the movement in Montpelier and how it may affect our school. Facilla wanted to know how Putney obtain a solar field and how it was financed. Holland will investigate the Putney Solar arrangement and report back next month.

Terhune adjourned the meeting 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,
Administrative Manager

cc: R. Rubin, H. Terhune, D. Facilla, E. Barber, E. Floyd, T. Ferrazza, Bart Howes, Cyndee Frere, W. Buswell, Amiee Pritcher, Arlene Palmiter, Donald Albano, Linda Anelli, Adam Levine, Jeannie Flanagan, Deerfield Valley News and the Brattleboro Reformer.

Posted: North Branch Fire District #1, Wastewater Treatment Facility & Administrations Building. Dover Town Office.