

Minutes

Randolph Center District Fire #1 Annual Meeting

Tuesday May 21, 2019

Attending: George Daniel, Trudy DeFlorio, Bob DiLeo, Carol Doss, John Doss, Dave Farnham, Jackie Hackett, Jay Hooper, Dan Lalumia, John Lens, Carolyn Lumbr, Scott Mitroft, Jill Wheatley

John Lens called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm.

Article 1: To elect a clerk. The present clerk, Carol Doss, announced that she was stepping down. She will take the minutes for this meeting and would help as needed until another clerk can be found. No volunteers or nominees were brought forth.

Article 2: To hear and act on reports of officers (treasurer, engineer). Written reports are attached.

Article 3: To elect one member to the Prudential Committee for a three year term. John Lens was nominated by Carol Doss and seconded by Bob DiLeo. Scoff Mitroft was nominated by Dave Farnham and seconded by Jackie Hackett. Some discussion ensued regarding the organization of the Prudential Committee, including how the chairperson was elected. The answer was that according to the charter, the chairperson is chosen by the sitting committee members. A written ballet was requested. John Lens was elected to serve this three year term.

Article 4: To elect a member to the Prudential Committee for the remaining one year of a vacated three-year term. Article 4 was tabled until the June Prudential Committee meeting in response to a question raised by Carolyn Lumbr regarding whether the length of the term for the person to be elected was for one-year, or three-years. Jay Hooper offered to bring the question to legislative experts for interpretation and clarification.

Article 5: To elect a treasurer. Carolyn Lumbr was nominated by Scott Mitroft and seconded by Dave Farnham. Carolyn Lumbr was elected by a unanimous vote.

Article 6: To elect a collector of rents and taxes. Dan Lalumia was nominated by Carolyn Lumbr and seconded Dave Farnham. Dan Lalumia was elected by a unanimous vote.

Article 7: To elect three auditors for a term of one year. A slate of three people (Dan Lalumia, Scott Mitroft, Trudy DeFlorio) were nominated by Carolyn Lumbr and seconded by John Lens. The slate (Dan Lalumia, Scott Mitroft, Trudy DeFlorio) were elected by a unanimous vote.

Article 8: To elect an engineer. Dave Farnham was nominated by John Doss and seconded by Scott Mitroft. Dave reminded the group that he occasionally works out of state. David Farnham was elected by a unanimous vote.

Article 9: To vote a tax. Discussion and vote were tabled until a water rate is discussed and determined by the Prudential Committee.

Article 10: To do other business as may be appropriate. Opportunity was provided for public comment. A question was raised by George Daniel about why the FD is going through the field to reach the pump house instead of using the campground access road. The answer was that the campground roadway is not plowed in the winter and the campground owner did not want the roadway to be damaged in the spring thaw.

Old business

The meeting then proceeded to presentation of the prudential committee report (attached). This led to discussion of State oversight of the water system, the asset management plan, collaboration with VTC (Vermont Technical College), concerns with fixing breaks in the water system, and that using volunteers to operate and repair the water system that is no longer viable due to the safety concerns associated with trench and pipe work. In addition, residents were not volunteering to serve the water district as had been the case many years ago. A discussion ensued about having enough money in the fire district's account to continue operating and repairing the water system with enough financial reserves to cover increasingly frequent maintenance and repair needs. That included discussion about the need to raise the water rates to meet financial demands. The prudential committee discussed raising the water rates as follows: Increasing the quarterly base rate to \$35, lowering the overage threshold from 10 to 7 units per quarter, and increasing the overage rates by \$1 per 100 cubic feet for each category of users. This was brought up for discussion but not brought forward to a vote at this meeting. There was also discussion about providing water to the proposed hotel on route 66 both for hotel usage and fire suppression. Jay Hooper agreed to speak with the FARM group developers about the status of their water interests from the fire district. A vote on tax rates and an increase in water rates was tabled until another meeting of the Prudential Committee.

Dan Lalumia volunteered to continue working on the Fire District's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 pm.