

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

144 NEWTON STREET

South Hadley, MA 01075

Minutes: March 3, 2026

Location: South Hadley Library

Attendance: Kurt Schenker, John Wojciechowski

Call to Order

The Prudential Committee meeting was called to order by the Kurt at 6:02 PM

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

John noted a correction needed for the February 21, 2026 meeting minutes: the draft incorrectly listed Steve seconding a motion, but only two committee members were present. The committee deferred approval of the February 21, 2026 minutes until corrected.

John motioned to approve the minutes for October 7, 2025, November 4, 2025, and December 2, 2025 as presented. Kurt seconded. Unanimously passed.

Discussion of IMA with the Town of South Hadley, Fire District 2, and Fire District 1 with the City of Westfield in regards to the Regional Dispatch Center

Presentation provided by Town Administrator Lisa Wong and Police Chief Gundersen regarding regionalizing dispatch services with the Town of Westfield targeting FY27:

- Safety & Staffing: Proposed to address single-dispatcher safety risks and current staffing shortages.
- Funding: State 911 grants will cover 100% of dispatch costs in Years 1–3, stepping down to 50% in Year 4, and 25% in Year 5. Initial transition/infrastructure costs are expected to be covered via Westfield's grant applications.
- Next Steps: Final IMA targeting completion within 60 days. No formal vote or contract execution was taken at this meeting.

Approval of Ambulance Adjustments, Vote on Acceptance

John motioned to approve the ambulance adjustments for the month of January 2026 in the amount of **\$227,302.23**. Kurt seconded. Unanimously passed.

Chief's Report, and Vote on Acceptance

- **February Call Volume:**
 - Fire Calls: **34**
 - EMS Calls: **169**
 - Total Calls: **203**
- **Inspections:**
 - Business Inspections: **10**
 - Schools: **1**
 - Smoke / CO Inspections: **8**
 - Oil burners: **2**
 - Lockboxes: **4**
- **Ongoing projects:**
 - New air cascade system has been installed
 - Kari has gotten names from vendors that can help with online permitting through the website
 - New phone system is being worked on

John motions to accept the Chief's Reports as read. Kurt seconded. Unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report, and Vote on Acceptance

- Kari notes that the Prudential Committee has a letter for closing the new ambulance account, but she notes that they still need to vote on it.
 - John motions to close the ambulance account that has \$2651.43 and transfer the sum to the ambulance reserve fund. Kurt seconded. Unanimously passed.
- Kari noted the election warrants need to be signed. Nomination papers have been turned into the Town Hall to be certified. She noted the election is the 14th. One person each is

running for Prudential, Moderator, Clerk/Treasurer, and Water Commissioner. Kurt motioned to accept the warrants as written. John seconded. Unanimously passed.

- Kari also noted that the annual meeting warrant needs to be signed. Kurt motioned to accept the warrant for the articles for the annual meeting. John seconded. Unanimously passed.
- Hampshire County Trust met and will be raising the rates and making some plan design changes. She noted that the Hilb Group voted to increase by 12.48%. There will be co-pay changes and a deductible. The alternative proposal would have resulted in a 16.08% premium increase without the plan-design changes. The new rates are effective July 1. The Committee discussed the notification and procedural requirements involving the District's union under Chapter 32B.

John motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kurt seconded. Unanimously passed.

New Business

No new business.

Adjourn

John motioned to adjourn. Kurt seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:04PM.