

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
144 NEWTON STREET
South Hadley, MA 01075

Minutes May 05, 2026

Location: South Hadley Library - 2 Canal Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

Attendance: Kurt Schenker, John Wojciechowski, Steven Blaney

Call to order

Kurt calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Discussion of Invite from Citizen's Group

Member of the public invited members of the Prudential Committee to join a committee whose goal is to figure out the host of hiring a consultant to determine if it is feasible to merge the fire and water districts. For more information, there will be a meeting at the South Hadley Library on the 14th of May at 6:00PM.

Reorganization of Board

A vote by ballot was held. The votes were as follows:

Chair: 3 votes for Kurt

Clerk: 3 for John

Member: 3 for Steve

Kurt forfeits his stipend.

Steve is taking the member stipend.

John takes the stipend of a member, forfeiting the difference of \$265.66.

Steve motions to accept the outcome of the voting as delivered by the ballots. Kurt seconds.

Unanimously passes.

Approval of Ambulance Adjustments

John motions for the ambulance adjustments for April of 2026 in the amount of \$201,025.31.

Steve seconds. Unanimously passes.

Chief's Report

Acceptance of resignation letter, and approval of new hire

April 2026

61 fire calls

200 EMS calls

Total: 261

Inspections:

8 business inspections

1 school fire safety inspections

3 school fire drills

20 smoke/COs

4 lockboxes

2 oil burners

Events

- Lockdown drills were conducted at the schools with the police department
- The Chamber of Commerce had a spring fling event, and FD 1 set up a safety tent doing public safety education

A new phone system was installed yesterday at the fire station.

The portable radios purchased with a grant Chief Stark was able to secure were programmed today. Last week, Acting Chief Houle completed the reimbursement paperwork for the state to get that money reimbursed. The funds should come in the next 4-6 weeks.

Acting Chief Houle put in for a \$1,200 grant from the NFPA for a new camera for fire investigations, which was awarded. He noted that the check will be presented when he and Lieutenant Baker attend the Fire Protection and Life Safety seminar in Norwood next Tuesday.

Status of the building:

Testing for the concrete floor was completed, and everything looks fine.

The water heater in the station needs replacement.

Acting Chief Houle reports getting a letter of resignation from Firefighter Andre Fontanez for personal reasons. He notes that they liked a candidate that was interviewed a few months ago, Bryan Santiago, who is a 5-year paramedic with AMR. Acting Chief Houle would like to recommend that they move to offer him a position, pending the outcome of his physical and PAT test.

John motions to accept the resignation as read by Acting Chief Houle and the approval of the new hire stated by the Chief. Steve seconds. Unanimously passes.

Kurt motions to also accept Martin Biela. Kurt seconds. Unanimously passes.

Treasurer's Report

Kari notes that the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust voted for the retirees to switch from MetLife Vision to Altus Vision. She is asking the Prudential Committee to vote to switch from MetLife Vision to Altus Vision for active employee insurance to keep it consistent between retirees and active employees. She notes there is no district contribution to the plan, it is roughly 5% cheaper, and there are more benefits for frames and contacts.

Steve motions to accept the Altus Vision instead of MetLife. John seconds. Unanimously passes.

Adjournment

Steve motions to adjourn. John seconds. Unanimously passes. Meeting adjourned at 6:54PM.

Respectfully submitted, Shauna Condon, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer