

**BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT
1841 PHINNEY'S LANE
BARNSTABLE, MA 02630**

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Prudential Committee Chairman William Jones at the District Water Department. Also, in remote attendance were Prudential Committee member Joshua Miller, Water Commissioners David Jones, Evelyn Basset and Steve Whitmore, Water Superintendent Tom Rooney, Fire Chief Frank Pulsifer, Deputy Chief Rick Pfautz, Treasurer Rick Buffington, Moderator Peter Eleftherakis, District Counsel Charles Sabbatt, Streetlight Consultant Richards French and Clerk Charles Eager.

No public comment

Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the March 3, 2020 minutes.

April 14, 2020 meeting was postponed to April 21, 2020 due to lack of quorum.

District Counsel Sabbatt explained how the Annual Election and Meeting can be moved to a later date. The Prudential Committee by a vote can change the meeting date. The Warrant can be posted with the new date chosen by the Committee. The date must be within 30 days of the current date. The Annual Warrant can be posted with the new date chosen by the Prudential Committee. If the meeting needs to be moved out further the Moderator can recess the meeting and continue it to a time and date certain not more than thirty day. The Moderator can do this numerous times in thirty-day intervals until 5 days after the State of Emergency has been lifted. There are provisions in place if the budget can't be passed before the end of the fiscal year.

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously by the Prudential Committee to reschedule the date of the Annual Election to June 6th and Annual Meeting to June 10th due to the current restrictions of the number of people who gather together and concerns for the health of voters and officials.

Since, the Moderator and District Counsel were not able to review the Annual Meeting Warrant it was decided to push finalization of the Warrant until the May 12th meeting.

David Jones voiced some concerns on how the Ambulance Fund could be used to fund certain projects. He states the funds should be allowed to make repairs to the fire boat. The boat is a rescue vehicle so the Ambulance Fund should be allowed to use. He also thinks the funds should be available to the Fire Department in a time of emergency to use the purchase items its needs without voter approval for things the fund was set up to supply. The purchase would be allowed by a majority vote of the Prudential Committee. Prudential Chairman Jones will get together with Counsel Sabbatt to discuss these issues and possibly draft a new article to allow the spending.

Water Department:

- Water Department is under budget for the year, spent 65% over 75% of the year.

- The new KOH tank replacement plan almost finished, looking to go to bid in July and start around Thanksgiving.
- Working on the plans and design specifications for Well 1 and hoping to get some grant money from the state.
- Well 2 pump has been pulled, well 2 roof work start after the well is back up and running.
- Flushing will begin once well 2 is up and running hopefully in a couple of weeks.

Fire Department:

- On budget for year but some accounts are significantly over budget on some line items. Will be monitoring closely for the rest of year.
- Incidents are 5% over last year. There has been a decline since COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to incidents were 20% over. They are expected to rise after state of emergency ends.
- COVID-19 response by the Fire Department is to restrict access to the station, suspended non-essential activities such as public education, outside training and nonrequired inspections. Started tracking the Department's cost related to the federal disaster reimbursement. Federal government will reimburse some of the costs related to the pandemic. Department is in good shape right now. They have a good supply of PPE; the firefighters have trained on how to handle these issues and Union has come up with innovated ways of decontaminating the vehicles after incidents.
- Hurricane Florence – Chief has applied for reimbursement through EMAC. Chief has completed all closeout documents and is still waiting on reimbursement. Chief checks on it every month.
- (2018) Assistance to Firefighter Grant with the awarded equipment grant the Department has received and programmed all radios and is in process of installing and placing them in service. There is surplus in funds and the Chief is working with the federal government to buy some additional radio equipment.
- (2019) Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Equipment Grant the Chief has put in for a \$1.2 million Quint. It would replace Ladder 206 and Engine 205. Both are coming up on their life expectancy.
- The Washer/Extractor purchased partly by a grant from Massachusetts Department Fire Services Grant has been installed and is operating. Reimbursement request has been submitted.
- Ladder 206 aerial was repaired and tested at Pierce. It passed inspection. Pierce performed UL NDT at the factory. Ladder 206 failed due to the aerial swivel leaking. Nothing to do with repair. The truck will be back in the District tomorrow. The part has been ordered and once received the Department mechanic will replace it. Until repaired it will used as a toolbox only with limited use of the aerial.
- Staffing Study was awarded to Municipal Recourses, Inc. and is moving forward. Site visit have been impacted due to COVID-19 but electronic transfer of data is keeping process moving. Company has requested flexibility with timeline because some of the work requires them to be on site. Chief spoke for the District saying we would allow flexibility.
- Temporary repair made to SAFE boat using a Line X material. Used a local vender and some members of the Department. The repair looks good and hoping it will hold up for a while. Deputy is still working to get some collars that might work as a full replacement. The boat will be in the water by the end of the week.
- Arbitration with terminated employee hearing was held in December and the Department has heard word the Arbitrator upheld the termination.

- Frederico Nogueira MFA recruit training graduation will be April 24, 2020. Due to COVID-19 no outside attendance will be permitted. When he returns he will be put on days and then moved to shift work.
- Barnstable County Sheriff's Department radio technician Ralph Swenson is retiring July 1, 2020. Sheriff Cummings sent a letter due to Mr. Swenson's retirement and staff restructuring the Sheriff's Department will not be able to install radio consoles or guarantee response to maintenance and repair requests. May impact operating budget.
- MassHealth recertification has been sent in. Chief doesn't see any problem with certification.
- Deputy Pfautz applied for Cape Cod Five Grant for a fire extinguisher prop and the Department was awarded \$5,000. Previously they had received a \$4,000 grant from Shepley Wood Products for the same purpose. Chief requested \$9,000 be appropriated from the Gift of Funds Account to purchase the fire extinguisher prop. **Motion made, seconded and passed Unanimously by the Prudential Committee to allow \$9,000 from the Gift of Funds Account to be used to purchase a fire extinguisher prop.**
- Injury on Duty Insurance is coming up for renewal at the beginning of the fiscal year. Chief said The Fire Department had a recent issue where a firefighter had a cardiac issue on duty and current carrier MIAA (Cabot Risk) would not cover it stating it was not job related. MIAA will only cover 4 cardiac issues. The Chief recommends the District return to VFIS for IOD coverage.

Treasurer:

- The March cashbook have been reconciled to the bank and general ledger with no variances.
- Total solar receipts for year are \$19,168.
- The budget for FY 2020 has been 79% expended, on track to come in under budget.
- Health insurance open enrollment is ongoing to May 1st.
- Arbitrator's bill will be paid by the Prudential Committee. Told Treasurer use his discretion on when to pay it.

Clerk:

- Nothing new.

Prudential Committee:

- **Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously accepted the new 3-year collective bargaining with the firefighter's union beginning July 1, 2020.**

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

NEXT Meeting is May 12, 2020