

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

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Prudential Committee member William Jones at the Water Department Office, 1841 Phinney's Lane, Barnstable. Also, in attendance was Prudential Committee members Joshua Miller and Andrew Miller, Water Commissioners David Jones and Evelyn Bassett, Water Superintendent Tom Rooney, Deputy Chief Rick Pfautz, Treasurer Rick Buffington, and Clerk Charles Eager.

No public comment

Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the June 8, 2021 and June 24, 2021 meetings as written.

Water Department:

- Water Department is under budget for the year - 98% spent over 99% of the year.
- Well 1 work was to be completed by July 1st, still isn't finished. Department is having trouble with Fall River Electric, Eversource and Robert Our. Eversource has run a temporary line down which is one phase and the pump need three. Fall River Electric has not completed connections for Eversource to other phases. Robert Our has been told the Water Commissioners are upset it is finished yet.
- Water Commissioner Chairman David Jones along with Prudential Chairman William Jones to meet July 20 with Town Manager Mark Els. They will discuss is any of the funds the Town received from Vineyard Winds and for water pollution with come to the District to offset cost to clean up PFAS found in District's water. Gordon Starr is willing to attain the meeting. The County is capping the Fire Academy at his time. It has removed the building from the site.
- Water Commissioners met with Tom Sexton on a rate study. Tom Sexton believes the District's rate should increase 20% a year for the next 5 year to pay for needed infrastructure to provide clean water. Mr. Sexton didn't believe Wells 3 and 4 would need filters. Water Commissioners have already put quarterly billing in place.

Fire Department:

- Fire Department is on budget for years FY 2021 and FY 2022.
- **(2018)** Assistance to Firefighter Grant with the awarded equipment grant the Department has received, programed, installed and placed in service all radios. All grant money has been spent, still waiting on FEMA for close-out documents.
- **(2019)** Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Equipment Grant (Ladder Truck) Truck will be going into the build stage soon with an expected delivery date of late Fall 2021.
- **(2019)** Assistance to Firefighters Grant (SAFER) Ongoing.
- Chief has submitted for **(2020)** Assistance to Firefighter Grant – (SCBA and Cascade). Requested replacement of SCBA Filling Station and SCBA. Both are items at the end of their lives. Total

grant is for \$243,152.28 which the federal government will reimburse 95%. Cost for the District is \$12,157.52. Award announcements expected in June/July 2021.

- Chief has applied for **(2020)** Assistance to Firefighter Grant – (SAFER). He requested two additional positions based on staffing study. Total grant is \$670,212.00 which is 100% reimbursable. Award announcement is expected in June/July 2021.
- Chief has submitted for a 2021 Massachusetts Department of Fire Service Equipment Grant. The Chief has applied for replacement SCBA facepieces and hand lights. Department awarded \$9,980 on April 1, 2021. Grant closeout documents are being completed.
- The District received CPE Medicare Reimbursement of \$119,833.00.
- Wilken Lane Apartment Complex (272 apartments) is going ahead with plans on opening Spring 2023 with full occupancy by end of the year 2023. It will cause no problem for the Fire Department. It will result in approximately 31 additional EMS calls a year. It is more of a Water issue.
- 1935 Mack Fire Engine ownership will be turned over to the District Thursday. Chief is working on getting it registered and insured.
- EMS Officer Tuepker has completed training as an ACLS and Handtevy Pediatric Instructor, as well attended CISM team training. Chief is trying to get as much training in house to keep costs down.
- In June the Chief completed his Masters Degree in Public Administration.
- The Chief has provided response to the Ransomware Questionnaire.

Treasurer:

- 93% of budget spent.
- Treasurer is working on cash for year end and will balance the month of June to the general ledger once all receipts and warrants have been received.
- Please have FY 2021 encumbrances and article carry forwards to Treasurer by end of the week.
- Treasurer will be providing the auditors with documents to start FY 2021 audit in the next couple of weeks.
- Please have the last vender warrants for FY 2021 to the Treasurer in the next couple of days.
- Treasurer also provided answers to the ransomware questionnaire.

Clerk:

- Nothing

Prudential Committee:

- Chairman Jones continued his discussion on how the District stands in combatting ransomware attacks. Chief believes the Fire Department is in pretty good shape with the measures they have implemented but there is always room for improvement and the Department looking to further strengthen their safety in certain areas. Superintendent Rooney also believes the Water Department is in good shape but again some area can be improved. The Treasurer also believes the financial information is secure also with some areas that can be improved. Chairman Jones will converse with a cyber security expert about what the District has in place in August.
- Union sent an email to Chairman Jones regarding an article in the collective bargaining agreement. Chairman Jones will ask the Union President to provide written clarification on what they are requesting. Then set up a meeting to discuss the matter.

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

Next Meeting is August 10, 2020