

**BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT
255 BREED'S HILL ROAD
HYANNIS MA 02601**

**Minutes of the
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 7, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Prudential Committee Chairperson William Jones. Also, in attendance at the District Offices at 255 Breed's Hill Road, Barnstable, MA were Prudential Committee members Andrew Miller and Wellesley Marsh, Water Commissioner David Mason, Fire Chief Christopher Beal, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Brailey, Water Superintendent Sean Anderson, Treasurer Rick Buffington, Interim Clerk Peter Eleftherakis, Owner's Project Manager Steve Rizzo, Fire District Attorney Charles Sabatt, Town Counselor Gordon Starr and Barnstable Village resident Sara Benson.

There was no public comment.

Members of the Prudential Committee signed the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Barnstable Firefighters Local 3276.

Attorney Sabatt swore in Peter Eleftherakis as Interim Clerk.

For the Annual Meeting, Interim Clerk Peter Eleftherakis will swear in the newly elected Clerk at the start of the meeting to allow minutes to be taken. For the Annual Election, the Deputy Chief will coordinate the setup of all materials (tables, voting booths and Ballot Box).

A motion was made by Andrew Miller to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2026 Prudential Committee meeting with the correction of \$10,000 for the trade-in value of the old fire engine, seconded by Wellesley Marsh and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Wellesley Marsh to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2026 Prudential Committee meeting with the correction noted, seconded by Andrew Miller and passed unanimously.

Water:

- FY 2026 budget is tracking within budget.
- Pump Test Report for satellite well for well 3 was submitted to DEP on 3/17/26. Results being awaited.
- Applied for another EC-SDC Grant and have received positive response. Received a request for additional information which has been provided. If the grant is approved, we will qualify for \$1,000,000 grant for the treatment plant for wells 3 & 4.
- Updated probable cost for well 3 & 4 treatment plant is now \$19,910,000.
- Wilkens Phase II – Have received a check for \$1.1MM.
- Water Revenue/System Improvement Account – Water Commissioners are looking at the percentage of revenues that go into System Improvement and may request a review, based on increased water revenues over the last four years and the current free cash balance.

- FY 2027 Budget and Final Warrant Article wording was submitted. Funding for a new Service Technician position was removed from the Operating Budget and added as a separate Warrant Article.
- The District received a letter from MASS DEP indicating that the District received one of the highest scores in the Community System category of the 2026 Public Water Systems Award Program. Congratulations were offered by all.

Fire Department Operating Budget:

- On track to finish FY 26 on budget.
- No update on RECC.
- Engine 3 has been completed and delivered. Equipment installation and training is ongoing. Expected to be in service around May 1.
- Still awaiting extension of our SAFER Grant. Once the federal government reopens, we should have access to our AFG funds.
- The department has been awarded a grant of \$8,783.14 from the FY26 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program. Funds will be used to purchase new portable radios.
- The requested FY 27 budget includes a 23% increase over FY 26. The majority of that increase is due to staffing costs, the largest components being salary, overtime, stipends and holidays. The salary increase is due to 1) the conclusion of the SAFER grant and the need for the department to fully fund the salaries of the four new members and 2) the recently negotiated contract. The increase in overtime is mostly due to the increased number of calls for service.
- Chief requested that he and the Deputy be put on the agenda of the June meeting for their Annual Review. Prudential Committee agreed to set up meetings after the Annual Meeting to perform the reviews.
- No change to FY 2027 Operating Budget or Warrant Articles.

Treasurer:

- On track to finish FY 2026 at or under budget.
- Annual Report has been printed (200 copies).
- Nomination papers for all elected offices have been returned and ballot is prepared for sending to print.
- Two articles will be sunseting this year: Fire - \$15,847. Water - \$4,225.
- Open enrollment for health insurance will be May 1 through June 15, 2026.
- Audit notes: Overall position of the district is excellent. Reserves are \$3.7MM which is about 15% of expenses (vs. a benchmark of 10%). We added \$190,000 of investment income and we have no deficits. We have over \$1.2MM in the Ambulance Fund. The auditor offered to attend the next Prudential Committee meeting. Prudential Committee member Marsh asked if the district has ever had a review of operations. No one could recall that one had been done. It was agreed to have Rick schedule the auditor to address a Prudential Committee meeting in the next fiscal year.

Clerk:

- Warrant Night was discussed. Will try to schedule for week of 4/27, possibly at the Barnstable Comedy Club. Will include a review of District history, a reading of each article

and an update on the Fire Station construction. Rick will attend to provide financial details as needed. Interim Clerk will confirm date, location and time when locked in.

- Town of Barnstable will send over the District 1 voter list on 4/29.

Prudential Committee:

Fire Station Construction

- Project remains on budget.
- About 2 -3 weeks has been lost due to weather, but progress is being made on making it up.
- Specific construction details available in OPM Notes.

Warrant Review

- **Article 2**

Prudential Committee Chair does not feel that Prudential Committee and Water Commissioner salaries should be increased. All agreed.

In response to a question by Prudential Committee member Marsh, treasurer Buffington stated that he has not yet compiled the results of his outreach to other districts and departments regarding their salary levels.

Prudential Member Marsh requested that there be an opt-out option for district elected officials who do not choose to take the health insurance. After discussion, it was agreed that this item will be addressed in the future.

Prudential Member Marsh suggested that the Moderator salary be amended from \$125 to \$250 per year. All agreed.

Prudential Committee Chair Jones suggested that the Clerk salary be increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000. All agreed.

- **Article 15**

Amount requested was changed to \$20,000,000.

- A discussion ensued regarding whether Warrant Articles should include a line indicating the vote of the Prudential Committee. The final decision was to not include it.
- Article 15 will require a 2/3 majority since it involves borrowing.
- A lengthy discussion was held on whether to display the wording of both the Articles and Motions at the Annual District Meeting. The intent would be to limit any confusion caused by the difference in wording between the two. The final decision was to read only the motions and, when needed, have the moderator explain that any differences in the wording are due to the source of funding.
- It was decided that the Interim Clerk will swear in the newly elected Clerk at the start of the Annual Meeting. At the end of the meeting, the Clerk will swear in the other newly elected officers.

Motion was made by Andy Miller to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wellesley Marsh and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Peter Eleftherakis
Interim Clerk