

Barnstable Fire District Prudential Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 14, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

4:00PM EST

Roll Call Attendance

X	William Jones	Prudential Committee Member
X	Andrew Miller	Prudential Committee Chairman
X	Wellesley Marsh	Prudential Committee Member
X	Charles M. Sabatt PC	Representing Attorney
X	David Mason	Chair, Board of Water Commissioners
X	Sean Anderson	Water Department Superintendent
X	Richard Buffington	District Treasurer
X	Chris Beal	Fire Chief
X	Kevin Brailey	Deputy Fire Chief
X	Sara Benson	Clerk
X	Steve Rizzo	Owners Project Manager, Synergy Consultants

Residents in Attendance: Lois Rosen, Suzy Genest, Paul Rosen, Paul Higgins

2. Public Comment

- Public inquiries focused on elected officials' eligibility for district-funded health insurance, the potential for an opt-out incentive, and the historical authorization of benefits.
- Records access was discussed: The Clerk and Counsel will conduct research on the organization's history. Public offered assistance with reviewing historical annual reports if necessary. Historical agendas and minutes are available online; however, they do not cover the organization's entire history.

3. Review and Acceptance of Minutes

- **Discussion:** The board reviewed the minutes from the June 9, 2026, meeting. (with format edits from Wellesley and correction by Bill Jones clarifying his service length will be 15 years by May 2027).
- **Motion** made to approve the revised minutes.
- **Vote:** Motion passed 3-0-0

4. Board of the Water Commissioners

- **Financials:** The department finished FY26 within budget and is tracking within budget for FY27.
- **Capital Projects:** Station 1 Well: Failed on July 6, 2026. It is the only well with a submersible pump. Weston & Sampson is inspecting; a pump/motor replacement is likely required.

- **PFAS Treatment:** Treatment for wells 3 and 4 is expected to be 90% complete by mid-August. A \$1,000,000 DEP grant has been awarded.
- **Hyannis 2:** Water mains are complete; bacteria samples are clean, and water is being turned on.

5. Report of the Fire Chief

- **Financials:** FY26 closed at 99.95% of the budget.
- **Grants/Awards:** Received a \$75,814 settlement from the FY25 Certified Public Expenditure Program. Closing out two AFG grants and a SAFER grant. Applied for a new FY25 FEMA SAFER grant for six firefighters.
- **Operations:** Engine 3 is in service. Two administrative vehicles were purchased for \$118,000.
- **Personnel:** 20 of 22 union members earned sick leave incentives. A new hire is expected in August 10.
- **Parade Issues:** The Chief requested that the Fire Department be placed first in future parades to ensure emergency access, citing significant traffic and access issues during the July 4th parade due to being last in the procession line.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- **Financials:** FY26 closed at 96.3% expended. FY27 budgets are set. DOR reports for free cash certification are in progress.
- **Administrative:** The board discussed the need for confirmation letters regarding district ownership of assets and the absence of third-party leases.

7. OPM / Fire Station Project

- **Status:** Project is on budget. Target occupancy is May 2027; move-in is July 2027 12.
- **Construction:** Apparatus bay floor preparation is underway; concrete pour is scheduled for the first week of August.
- **Community engagement:** planned open house and public beam-signing May–June 2027 (white-painted, permanently exposed beam)
- **Building Assessment:** The board discussed the need for a condition survey and updated appraisal for the current Barnstable Fire Department building.
- **Motion:** Bill Jones moved to authorize Stephen Rizzo (OPM) to draft an RFP for a building condition survey and to proceed with an updated property appraisal for the current Barnstable Fire Department building.
- **Vote: Motion passed 3-0-0**

8. Report of the Clerk

Status: No updates or items for discussion at this time.

9. Prudential Committee

- **Citizens Committee:** recent meeting included history and site tour; next meeting August 26, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

- **Healthcare Insurance and opt-out option discussion:**
 - The discussion focused on understanding the history, authorization, and cost of health insurance benefits for elected officials. Board members were unable to recollect historical context due to the age of the policy, so Clerk Sara Benson agreed to research its origin. Cost savings and opt-out incentives were discussed, along with the importance of maintaining consistency across all positions. It was noted that residents who wish to recommend a policy change may do so by submitting a warrant article through the proper legal process for Board consideration.

Executive Session and Adjournment Motion: Enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a) to negotiate/finalize Napoli contract and discuss two personnel issues; not returning to open session.

- **Maker:** Bill Jones
- **Second:** Andrew Miller
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously (3-0-0)