

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

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2025

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 members Andrew Miller and Wellesley Marsh, Water Commissioner Rick Bernard, Assistant Water Superintendent Ron Tivey, Fire Chief Christopher Beal, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Brailey, Treasurer Rick Buffington, and Clerk Charles Eager.

Chairperson Jones opened the Classification Hearing and then requested a motion to suspend the meeting to a later date because the Town's valuations were not certified yet. **Motion made by Andrew Miller to suspend the Classification Hearing to a later date, seconded by Wellesley Marsh, and passed unanimously.**

No public comment.

Motion made by Andrew Miller to accept the October 14, 2025, Prudential Minutes, seconded by William Jones and passed by a majority. Wellesley Marsh asked if information to be voted on be provided with more time before meetings so that there is time to review the material. **Marsh abstained from voting on the motion.**

Water:

- FY 2026 budget is tracking to be within budget.
- Satellite well for well 3 – well screen has arrived at the Driller's shop. They are looking at the first week of December to begin the installation. It will likely take a week. Followed by a week of well development. Future treatments at wells three & four before they can do some borings and perk tests we need to perform some site work. This work will be done after Thanksgiving.
- The new Treatment Plant for wells 2 and 5 is having some minor issues with new generator that contractor Biszko is working on. Will work on a notice for the BVA newsletter giving an update on the project.
- Wilkens Phase II – The Developer has come up with alternative way of supplying water to the project. The Water Department doesn't like the option and denied the new option. The Water Department likes the option they have already approved.

Fire:

- On track to finish FY26 on budget.
- No Update on RECC (Regional Emergency Communication Center).
- Call volume continues to trend higher compared to last year. Calls are up 224 over last year.
- Highpoint Treatment Center are going ahead with their plans to build a treatment drug and alcohol treatment center in the Industrial Park. Fire Chief doesn't believe there is a problem with coverage with current manpower.

- The engine is on the assembly line. There have been some changes made to the engine so there will be an additional fee. They believe they can absorb it out of their budget.
- FEMA opened last night, and the Fire Chief accepted the grant approved last month. The Chief is looking to extend the SAFER Grant out six months.
- Chief presented a draft of the Fire Department's Strategic Staffing Plan for Prudential Committee review. It includes an EMS Officer, Fire Prevention Officer and part-time Maintenance Person for the facility, full-time Secretary/Receptionist and adding Firefighters.
- Groundbreaking for new Fire Station is on December 12th at 2:30 PM. Invitations have been sent out.

Treasurer:

- Treasurer is on track to finish FY 2026 under budget.
- Classification hearing delay to December
- The audit is ongoing, and final should be ready in the next couple of weeks.
- Free Cash documentation has been submitted to DOR and waiting on certification amount. Treasurer expects it to be a good amount.

Clerk:

- Capital budgets are due at December's meeting. Preliminary Operating Budgets are due in January.
- Department Annual Reports are due at the end of February,

Prudential:

- The District Office & Water Department have moved to 255 Breed's Hill Road.
- Testing of imported soils is on-going.
- Retaining wall construction is on-going.
- Storm Water infiltration basins construction has started.
- The old District Office Building has been stripped of salvageable items and is ready for demolition. Step up two camera sites. One for the public which can view from the Fire Department's website.
- All hazardous materials identified by the environmental consultant have been removed.
- The Fire Department took advantage of the empty building to perform training exercises.
- Discussions regarding Article 97 action plan with the Commonwealth are ongoing.
- One of the next steps is to demolish the structures at 1841 Phinney's Lane and level the site.
- Continue working on retaining walls.
- Prepare site for foundations. Concrete pours are scheduled for January.
- Budget update provided.
- Priced up replacing current water main in front of station with an eight-inch line. It is about three hundred feet with a cost of \$120,000. Proposing to use some of their buyout savings to pay for it. We already must cut the line because it is in front of the main entrance.
- It is time to start dealing with the old Fire Station. Need to set up a Building Needs Committee to deal with what will happen with the building. Will need an appraisal and conditions report.

- **Andrew Miller made a motion to initiate a Building Needs Committee for the old Fire Station; Wellesley Marsh seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.** The committee will consist of two nonvoting members, one from the Board of Water Commissioners and one from the Prudential Committee and five to seven voting members who are registered voters of the District. They will be tasked with deciding what to do with the old Fire Station.

Motion made by Andrew Miller to adjourn the public session of the meeting and go into executive session to discuss a personnel issues and collective bargaining strategy because discussing the matter in open session would have a detrimental effect on these matters; Wellesley Marsh seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously. Executive session opened at 5:02 PM.