

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

**PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 10, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Prudential Committee Chairman William Jones at the Water Department Office, 1841 Phinney's Lane, Barnstable. Also, in attendance was Prudential Committee members Andrew Miller and Peter Eastman, Water Commissioners Evelyn Bassetts, Dave Mason and Stephen Whitmore, Water Superintendent Sean Anderson, Fire Chief Christopher Beal, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Brailey, Treasurer Rick Buffington, Moderator Peter Eleftherakis and Clerk Charles Eager.

The Moderator came to meeting at the request of the Prudential Chairman to see if there is a need for a By-law review of Water Department issues. The Water Department thought the Optional Separate Metering Systems should be dropped from the By-laws and add a recall of elected official article to the by-laws. What brought about the metering request is a taxpayer on a well wanted a meter because they are on the sewer. They need the ability to charge a fee for doing this. There was discussion if the by-law needs to be removed to set a fee schedule for the metering. It was decided at this time there was a need for a by-law review. The Prudential Chairman requested the Water Department check with District Counsel to see if anything in the optional metering by-law affects the Water Department's ability to set a fee schedule. The Prudential Chairman we talk to him on the recall issue.

Erica Lota of Stantec made a presentation to the Prudential Committee for need of additional funds for the construction of the Water Treatment Plant. They are pretty much done with design. Looking at construction process costs the \$20,000,000 appropriated at the Annual District Meeting are insufficient. Chairman Jones brought up his request made earlier in the process if a steel building would be cheaper than the current concrete building. There was a question if the whole appropriation has to be voted on or just the additional amount needed. Ms. Lota will look into it with the DEP. The bid schedule will start later this month for prequalification. In March the real bidding process would start. Early April for bid opening. Ms. Lota said she would bring back what it would cost of the structure was made out of steel and wood. She will also get information on cost per square footage and article language.

**Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of December 13, 2022 meeting.**

Water Department:

- Water Department is under budget for the year with 42% spent over 50% of the year.
- Superintendent present his operating budget. The only capital article will be the additional funds needed to complete the treatment plant.

- Town will at some time will be doing work on the covert and sidewalks on Commerce Road from Georges Way to Route 6A. Water Department is looking to partner with them and put in new water main in that section. It will be a cost savings to the District.

Fire Department:

- Fire Department for FY 2023 is currently on budget with 53% spent over 54% of the year.
- Run volume for calendar 2022 was 1,752 calls for service of which mutual aid was only needed for 3% of the calls.
- Fire Department has awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program awarded September 15th for hiring of four firefighters. The Firefighter/EMT Alex Smith and Dan Black start their 2 weeks of days on January 23, 2023. They will be going to the Bridgewater Fire Academy site in September. The Firefighter/Paramedic candidates William Murray and Quinton Campbell are completing their pre-employment screening and are slated to start February 6, 2023.
- Fire Department will be completely transitioning IT record management system to Image Trend Elite but are evaluating Slate as it is not currently meeting expectations. The Department is looking at other programs to see if one would work better.
- Firefighter/EMT Stephen Bunker will be going to Mass State Fire Academy in Springfield starting January 17, 2023. He started on Group 1 on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Judge started on Group 3 on December 5, 2022. He will be attending Mass State Fire Academy in Bridgewater starting April 3, 2023.
- Department awarded FY23 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Service in the amount of \$7,993.04
- In December with assistance of Captain Robert Cecil secured a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. It will be used in a memorial at the station.
- The Department was selected by the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services to participate in the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System. This to determine if Medicare payments for ground ambulance services is adequate. Failure to provide information will result in fees and a reduction in CPE funds in the future.
- The Department is meeting within the Towns of Sandwich, Yarmouth and Barnstable including both fire and police to determine the need for a regional emergency communications center. Prudential Committee gives their support.
- Operating and Capital budgets presented.

Treasurer:

- FY 2023 on track to finish year under budget.
- FY 2024 Operating Budget presented.
- Cashbook has been balanced to the bank and the general ledger with no variances.
- Treasurer submitted annual report documents to the Clerk.
- Paperwork for the Lease Purchase Agreement signed.
- Treasurer has been looking for a backup payroll individual in can something happens to him. He has been training Karen Hickey. She was wondering if she should receive a stipend. The Prudential Committee question if she is doing the function while already on the clock. Fire

Chief is said she is looking at it as an added function of her job. The Prudential Committee will look into how to compensate her and whether she will need to be bonded.

- Treasurer asked about payment for employees in lieu of insurance. The committee put the issue on hold until they discuss it further. As it does not affect only one person but possibly seven at this time. A decision will be made by the end of the fiscal year.

Clerk:

- Annual Reports are do at the end of February.

Prudential Committee:

- Chairman Jones will talk to District Counsel about elected officials recall article.
- Negotiation session scheduled for tomorrow is cancelled. Next session is January 18, 2023.

**Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the public meeting and go into executive session per exception 2 for negotiation strategy with the Union, not to return to public session. All members were polled and William Jones, Peter Eastman and Andy Miller agreed to adjourn public session and go into executive session.**

Next Meeting is February 14, 2022