

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

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 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 Dave Mason and Stephen Whitmore, Interim Water Superintendent Ron Tivey, Fire Chief Frank Pulsifer, Deputy Fire Chief Christopher Beal, Treasurer Rick Buffington, District Counsel Charles Sabatt and Clerk Charles Eager.

The Prudential Committee held the District's Classification Hearing to set the tax rate for the District. The Committee voted to use a residential factor of 1, meaning the District will not split the tax rate between residential and industrial, commercial and personal property. The tax rate is \$1.91.

Motions made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of September 28, 2022 executive session, public and executive sessions October 11, 2022 and public meeting October 19, 2022.

Water Department:

- Water Department is on budget for the year
- Received the ok to put Well 1 online from Mass DEP.
- Received the ok to build a Treatment Plant from Mass DEP.
- Will be interviewing candidates for the Water Superintendent's position next week.

Fire Department:

- Fire Department for FY 2023 is currently on budget.
- Firefighter Austin Osborn is at the Fire Academy in recruit training. Graduation set for November 28th. He will be back on shift in Group 2 on December 2.
- Fire Department has awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program awarded September 15th for hiring of four firefighters. Requested and received 30-day extension for acceptance to get voter approval. Have until November 14, 2022 to accept or deny the award. Requested to hire 2 EMT's and 2 Paramedics approved. Need to have discussions with the Union the contract only allows 12 paramedics. If the EMS Officer is counted as one then only 1 paramedic would be allowed.
- Fire Department will be completely transitioning IT record management system to Image Trend Elite in FY2023. ESO Firehouse will be discontinued December 31, 2022. EMS Officer Strayer has been working as point person and has been doing a great job.

- Matt Judge started October 31, 2022. He is completing FF I/II training and then will doing 2 weeks of new hire orientation. He is slated to star with Group 3 on December 5, 2022. He will be attending the state Fire Academy in Bridgewater starting April 3, 2023.
- Stephen Bunker hired for open EMT position started his 4 weeks of days on October 17. EMT Bunker will be assigned to Group 1 on November 15, 2022. He will go to Mass State Fire Academy in Springfield starting January 17, 2023.
- Chief Pulsifer's last day coffee will be November 17, 2022 from 8:00 AM to 12 PM.
- Promotional and Pinning Ceremony to be held Saturday, November 15, 2022 at 10 AM.
- Matt Judge started October 31, 2022. He is completing FF I/II training and then will doing 2 weeks of new hire orientation. He is slated to start with Group 3 on December 5, 2022. He will be attending the state Fire Academy in Bridgewater starting April 3, 2023.

Treasurer:

- Treasurer requested signatures from the Prudential Committee members and the Clerk on the LA-5 to allow him to sign for them regarding the Classification Hearing.
- FY 2023 on track to finish year under budget.
- Cashbook has been balanced to the bank and the general ledger with no variances.
- Treasurer will submit annual report documents to the Clerk once the FY 2022 audit is complete and FY 2023 tax rate has been set.

Clerk:

- Swearing in of the Chief and Deputy Chief on November 17th at 10:00 AM.

Prudential Committee:

- Special District Meeting is set to go.
- District Counsel is working on letter to finance company for the pumper funding.
- Finance Company agreed to hold everything until after the meeting (Price and interest rate).
- Nothing going on with Oakmont Property except Lindsey Counsell called to see if the District would like to buy the private land next to the District property with CPA funds. It has no value to the District so the reply was no.
- Sexual Harassment Policy is ongoing.
- Incoming Deputy and Fire Chief contract signings to be effective on November 17, 2022 at 4:00 PM. The Incoming Deputy has requested an addendum to his contract which Prudential Chairman believes is a benefit to the District. The addendum would pay him \$3,000 stipend for not taking health insurance through the District. This is the amount the District pays employees who elected the high deductible insurance option with a health saving account. Chairman Jones believes everyone in the District who doesn't take insurance through the District would be entitled to the \$3,000. **Motion made to accept the change of wording to Section 8 of the Deputy Chief's contract, motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** Prudential Committee signed the contracts.
- Union negotiations start November 16, 2022.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the public meeting and go into executive session per exception 3 for negotiation 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 December 13, 2022