

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

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Prudential Committee member William Jones at a remote location. The meeting was held virtually using the zoom application. Also, in attendance was Prudential Committee member Andrew Miller, Water Commissioners David Jones and Evelyn Basset, Water Superintendent Tom Rooney, Fire Chief Frank Pulsifer, Deputy Chief Rick Pfautz, Treasurer Rick Buffington and Clerk Charles Eager.

No public comment

Motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded and passed.

Water Department:

- Water Department is under budget for the year - 59% spent over 58% of the year. Over budget due to engineering costs spent on some of the projects.
- Well #1 bid was awarded to Robert B. Our. Came in at a little over \$1 million dollars. They are ready to get started.
- Starting to put in the KOH tank at well sites 3 and 4.
- At Wells 2 and 5 engineering work is going to determine on how to proceed.
- Attorney Dennis Murphy representing the District in the groundwater pollution from the Fire Academy had a constructive conversation with the Barnstable County attorney. He thought the District would be well considered going forward. District will still be working with the County's consultant BETA Group. Allowing them to access District property on the airport to take samples and answering their inquiries. The District is still not satisfied with the County capping of the Fire Academy site. The District wants the contaminated solid removed before the site is capped. The Town has not replied regarding their countability to groundwater pollution from the airport.
- Water Department haven't heard a word from the housing project developer (New England Development) since their meeting in December.
- Water Department Chairman thanks the Fire Department's response to the Water Department Coronavirus problem.
- Prudential Committee went over the Water Department operational budget.

Fire Department:

- Fire Department is on budget for the year.
- **(2018)** Assistance to Firefighter Grant still waiting on FEMA for closeout documents.

- **(2019)** Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Equipment Grant. Nothing new on the ladder truck.
- **(2019)** Assistance to Firefighters Grant – SAFER Program for a firefighter position. Michael Watt has been hired and is assigned to Group 1.
- **(2020)** Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Equipment Grant is now accepting applications but will close by February 12th. The Chief will be sending an application for SCBA and a SCBA filling station. The Department's equipment is at the end of its life. They were going to be on the capital list for next year. The Chief will be seeking \$250,000 with the standard 95/5 cost sharing split. Awards announcements are expected to be made in May 2021.
- The Chief has applied for a \$10,000 **(2021)** Massachusetts Dept. of Fire Services Equipment Grant to replace SCBA facepieces and handlights. The grant is restricted on what can be requested. It has no cost sharing but is a reimbursement grant. Award announcement the week of February 8. Chief has heard nothing yet,
- Chief has submitted for MEMA Federal reimbursement for COVID expenses on October 13, 2020. Have completed applicant briefing with FEMA representative. Chief is itemized equipment and personnel costs directly related COVID-19. Originally requested appropriately \$44,000 of expenses of which the federal government reimburses 75% of eligible expenses. The desk review reduced the amount submitted by \$17,451.47, mostly the AeroClave Decontamination Machine. Revised amount for expenses is \$27,291.85. Chief heard from MEMA they approved the 75% reimbursement totaling \$20,468.89.
- Received a draft copy of the staffing study yesterday. The Chief is reviewing the study to make sure all content is valid. Chief believes a final revision will be ready for the next meeting.
- Captain Tyson applied for a Safe/Senior SAFE Grant for public education and was awarded \$5,960 from the Department of Fire Services.
- Marine 218 motor had a mechanical failure. Rot in the cowl caused the motor to overheat causing heat damage to the fiberglass shell. To repair the cowl cost approximately \$3,464. It was recommended to replace the 15-year-old motor. The cost of replacing the motor using the government pricing would be \$5,000 including labor with a 5-year warranty. This would almost wipe out his repair budget. Prudential Committee give approval to get the motor. It will be noted if the Fire Department goes over budget for the year.

Treasurer:

- Cash has been balanced to the bank and the general ledger with no variances for the month of January.
- Treasurer is on track to finish fiscal '21 at or under budget.
- Treasurer attended a Cape Cod Municipal Health Group meeting last week and for the first time in three years the health insurance will increase by 3%. The dental and vision will remain the same.
- District Counsel Charles Sabbat edited the OPEB Trust for the District. The District needs to decide from 2 options who the Trustee should be. Option one is the Treasurer could be the Trustee or Option 2 a committee consisting of person(s) with investment experience, who was duly appointed by the chief executive officer of the District, citizen(s) of Municipality, who was duly appointed by the chief executive officer of the District, employee of Municipality, who was duly selected by ballot of the current employees of the District, retiree(s) of Municipality, who

was duly selected by ballot of the current retirees of the District, officer(s) of Municipality, who was duly appointed by the chief executive officer of the District and additional Trustees to be appointed by chief executive officer of Municipality. Prudential Committee will review the options.

Clerk:

- Nomination papers are now available.

Prudential Committee:

- Prudential Committee Chairman William Jones talked with District Counsel about the ability of the Prudential Committee to take money out of the Ambulance funds during a declared emergency for EMS related issues. District Counsel agreed it would take a By-law article to allow this to happen. District Counsel is working on an article for the Annual Meeting.
- Water Department went over its operational budget. Much of the increases are mandated such as testing and chemicals. The budget increased by 6% over FY 2021.
- Meetings will be set up with the Treasurer and Fire Department to go over Treasurer's Fire Chief's, Deputy Fire Chief's contracts and each Department's operating and capital budgets.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously by the Prudential Committee to adjourn the meeting.

Next Meeting is March 9, 2021

**REVIEW OF WARRANT WITH DISTRICT COUNSEL AND MODERATOR IS IN APRIL
ANNUAL MEETING IS IN MAY**