**BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT**

**1841 PHINNEY’S LANE**

**BARNSTABLE, MA 02630**

**PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES MARCH 3, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Prudential Committee Chairman William Jones at the District Water Department. Also, in attendance were Prudential Committee member Joshua Miller, Water Commissioner David Jones, Water Superintendent Tom Rooney, Fire Chief Frank Pulsifer, Treasurer Rick Buffington and Clerk Charles Eager.

No public comment

Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the February 11, 2020 minutes.

Water Department:

* Water Department is underbudget, 60% over 64% of the year.
* Going ahead with roof on well #2.
* Water Department exceed the new state limit for PFAS on blending of wells 2 and 5 near the airport. Superintendent Rooney compose a letter to let customer know the water sample exceeded the state limit. The notice will go on the website. It is a soft public notice. The state is review what the Superintendent written and what is approved will go on the website.
* Water Commissioner had Superintendent Rooney send a letter to the Barnstable County Commissioner regarding capping the Fire Academy as they had pervious stated.
* Water Commissioner are not going to bid KOH tank replacement until July to do the work hopefully in November. Not know what going to happen with wells 2 and 5 the Commissioner don’t want to take another well off line.
* Water Department is trying to get some of the state grant money. There were left over grant money FY 2019. The Governor put that money into sampling and mitigation funds. Right now, cities and towns that ask for sampling the state will do it for them. The available money might be eaten up by the sampling. Any left-over money with be reallocated to mitigation. Barnstable is in the loop if there is any left-over money. There probably won’t be much grant money. The state does have some 0% loans. Most likely that is what the District will be pursuing.
* Water Department is proposing two articles for the meeting. First, they believe they must go ahead get borrowing authorization of $2,483,000 to rehabilitate Well 1 now due to the problem with wells 2 and 5. They need the authorization and hopefully won’t need to borrow it all because of possible grant money to help offset the borrowing. The District must have everything in place in order to get grant money from the state. The second article is a $60,000 article to fix the roof on wells three and four.

Fire Department:

• On budget for year but maintenance to vehicles, legal, EMS supplies and protective clothing/SCBA are significantly over budget. Will be monitoring closely for the rest of year.

• Incidents are 25% over last year. There has been a 32% increase in the last two years.

• Hurricane Florence – Haven’t received reimbursement yet. MEMA submitted reimbursement forms to North Carolina at the end of January.

* With the 2018 awarded Assistance to Firefighters equipment grant the Department has received and programed all radios and is in process of installing and placing them in service. The grant was overfunded by $10,000 the Department is looking to use it for additional equipment waiting ok from federal government.
* Fire Department has put in for 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Equipment grant application period is open and closes March 13, 2020 at 5 PM. Chief has almost finished the application. The Department is looking in purchasing a Quint to replace L-206 and E-205. The split between the District and federal government is 95% federal contribution and District 5% constitution. Chief is recommending the District overmatch the 5% and pay $210,000 keeping the federal contribution under $1 million. Chief is looking for Prudential Committee support. **Motion made, seconded and passed to support the Chief’s application**.
* Department awarded a Massachusetts Department of Fire Services $5,000 grant for a new Washer/Extractor. Grant must be spent by June 30, 2020. Chief would use the state bid. The new appliance would be the same size of the current one by have a larger capacity and higher efficiency. The State bid from Eastern Laundry Systems is $7,395. The additional $2,395 would come from the Fire Department’s operating budget.
* Ladder 206 engine aerial was repaired, tested and passed at Pierce facility. Pierce will perform the full annual UL Nondestructive Testing at the factory. Chief believes he would see the ladder engine in about 4 weeks.
* Staffing Study contracts have been signed with Municipal Resources, Inc. Information is going back and forth.
* Arbitration with terminated employee hearing was held in December. Post hearing briefs were filed on March 2, 2020. Arbitrator’s decision is due with 60 days.
* Department received notice of MassHealth Revalidation today with a deadline of April 2, 2020 to be returned. Annual CORI checks are a requirement. Failure to complete the checks would require the Department to disenroll from MassHealth. This would result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenue.
* Department recently filed a claim with MIIA for a firefighter who encountered a cardiac issue on duty, MIIA stated the issue was not job related. They found it to be incidental finding. MIIA only covers 4 cardiac issues: 1. Angina Pectoris, 2. Myocardial Infraction, 3. Coronary Thrombosis and 4. Cerebrovascular Accident. Chief was very disappointed in the decision. He spoke with Roy McNamee (Gowrie 111F consultant) and he doesn’t know understand why MIIA would not cover the issue. He said it is in their best interest of the company to cover and mitigate early. Chief recommends return to VFIS for IOD coverage. Expiration of current policy is June 30, 2020.
* Chief’s is looking to transfer funds appropriated for and infusion pump 3 year ago into a new article for a pump due to the sunsetting provisions. He is also looking for a $310,000 to purchase a new ambulance, $58,000 for Personal Protective Equipment and finally the boat. The Deputy is still working with the Coast Guard to get a surplus collar. The Coast Guard does have surplus collars but are reluctant to give any up because they still have one SAFE boat that in operation. The request for $55,000 to replace the collar is a much more substantial collar. Chief could put in for a Port Security Grant for the more substantial collar. A second option is getting a similar replacement collar for $11,000 and hope it holds out while going for other options to get the more substantial collar. It was decided to go with the $11,000 fix.

Treasurer:

• The February cash book have been reconciled to the bank and general ledger with no variances.

* Solar revenues for the year remain at $19,381 for FY 2020.
* The budget for FY 2020 has been 74% expended, on track to come in under budget.
* Treasurer requests Department Heads to bring any potential sunset articles to the April 14th Prudential meeting.
* Insurance open enrollment will be coming in April. Treasurer will send information to Department Heads once scheduled.

Clerk:

* The Annual Meeting venue has changed to the East Side Conference Room at the Old Jail.

Prudential Committee:

Motion made to go into executive session and not to return to public session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy. Members were polled: William Jones agrees, and Joshua Miller agrees. Executive session is convenved.

**NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 14, 2020**