

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

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Prudential Committee member William Jones at the Water Department Office, 1841 Phinney's Lane, Barnstable. Also, in attendance was Prudential Committee members Joshua Miller and Andrew Miller, Water Commissioner David Jones, Water Superintendent Tom Rooney, Fire Chief Frank Pulsifer, Deputy Chief Rick Pfautz, Treasurer Rick Buffington, Moderator Peter Eleftherakis, District Counsel Charles Sabatt0 and Clerk Charles Eager.

No public comment

Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the March 9, 2021 meeting as written.

Water Department:

- Water Department is under budget for the year - 73% spent over 75% of the year.
- The state has told the District that they will probably be requiring water conservation this summer. We are almost in a drought situation at this time. The state regulates how much water the District can pump. The state is probably going to make the water conservation mandatory instead of voluntary. The last time the District enforced the restrictions it cost over \$100,000. The District is questioning on how to enforce any restrictions. District will probably need a By-law to allow the District to introduce fines for non-compliance. Currently, the Board of Water Commissioners can penalize large users is by using the rates charged.
- The new KOH storage tank at well #4 is in. The project is almost complete
- Contract documents for Well 1 have been completed. Robert Our was awarded the contract and became work today.
- Continuing to do the preliminary work for the treatment plant at wells 2 and 5. Pilot study has been done. Currently, analyzing the result to see what type of treatment is needed. Thinking is to use the smaller carbon vessels.
- County put out RFP to remove the structures at the Fire Academy and cap the area. Bid opening is May 14. Did make some changes based on the District's comments.
- No updates on the Wilken's property.

Fire Department:

- Fire Department is on budget for the year.
- **(2018)** Assistance to Firefighter Grant with the awarded equipment grant the Department has received, programed, installed and placed in service all radios. Due to best pricing after

purchasing all radios there was a surplus of \$18,297.44. Chief has submitted a grant amendment to purchase 5 additional radios, 8 spare microphones and 10 spare antennas. The Department received the last five portables and accessories. They have been programmed and put in service. All grant money has been spent, still waiting on FEMA for close-out documents.

- **(2019)** Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Equipment Grant (Ladder Truck) 3 members of the Department went to the Pierce factory in Wisconsin for pre-build meeting with engineers in March. Truck will be going into the build stage soon with an expected delivery date of late Fall 2021.
- Chief has submitted for **(2020)** Assistance to Firefighter Grant – (SCBA and Cascade). Requested replacement of SCBA Filling Station and SCBA. Both are item at the end of their lives. Total grant is for \$243,152.28 which the federal government will reimburse 95%. Cost for the District is \$12,157.52. Award announcements expected in May 2021.
- Chief has applied for (2020) Assistance to Firefighter Grant – (SAFER). He requested two additional positions based on staffing study. Total grant is \$670,212.00 which is 100% reimbursable. Award announcement is expected in June/July.
- Chief has submitted for a 2021 Massachusetts Department of Fire Service Equipment Grant. Grant is for a maximum of \$10,000 based on population. The Chief has applied for replacement SCBA facepieces and hand lights. No cost to District but it is a reimbursement grant. Department was awarded \$9,980 on April 1, 2021
- Submitted for MEMA Federal reimbursement for COVID expenses. Have completed applicant briefing with FEMA representative. Department was awarded \$27,291.85. \$20,468.89 received on February 5, 2021. Under the President's new directive, the District is eligible for 100% cost reimbursement. Department filed amendment paperwork and was awarded \$6,822.96.
- Staffing Study is ongoing. Final report has been submitted. Vender wants to know if Prudential Committee would like a presentation? Chief will get dates from the vender.
- Captain Beal recently completed NFPA Fire Inspector 1 program. He will be going into the Fire Inspector II program right away.
- Railroad Company will be do crossing work at Hyannis Road, Railroad Avenue and Pine Lane that must be done before Memorial Day. Fire Department will be housing equipment at the Water Department when work is being done.

Treasurer:

- Treasurer on track to finish FY 2021 under budget.
- Cash has been balanced to the bank and the general ledger with no variances for the month of March.
- Reminder open enrollment for health insurance will be from April 15th to May 31st. Have changes to the Treasurer by May 31.
- Health Insurance rate will be increasing by 3% this year for FY 2022, paychecks will be updated in 1st paycheck in July.
- There will be a split payroll this year. The last paycheck for FY 2021 will have 5 days in FY2021 and 2 days in FY 2022.

Clerk:

- All set for Election and Meeting.

Prudential Committee:

- Prudential Committee made a motion to add an additional \$100,000 to help fund the operational ballot of the Fire Department. This will bring down the estimated tax rate to \$2.75 per thousand.
- Proposed By-law article to give Prudential Committee the authority to spend from the Ambulance Fund without voter approval a sum certain during a Federal or State Declared State of Emergency on EMS items is disallowed by District Counsel. It too difficult to split up between EMS and operating items. For example, take a disinfectant it would be used for both EMS and non-EMS uses. The funds from the Ambulance Fund could only be used for the EMS purposes. The Reserve Account could always be done or if it can be identified as strictly EMS use the Prudential Committee could use the Ambulance Account without a By-law change. No Article 20.
- Went over the Warrant. Moderator asked about OPEB Trust. Treasurer explained the OPEB money was put into an account not a trust. The Trust would be beneficial to the District by reducing its underfunded amount

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

Next Meeting is June 8, 2021