

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

**PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE JANUARY 12, 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 members Joshua Miller and 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 amended was made, accepted and passed. The amendment is on the second page under the Water Department discussing the cost for the plan to resolve the problem with wells #2 and #5. The amount should have been \$9,000,000 not \$900,000,000.

Water Department:

- Water Department is under budget for the year - 49% spent over 50% of the year. The Superintendent is spending operational money on Well 1 until the Water Department gets the loan.
- Well #1 received approval for modification of the building. Well 1 bid opening Thursday for the general contractor and the past Thursday there was bid opening for the subcontractors. They have the pump for well #1 provided by the Cape Light Compact but are waiting on the electrician to put in an electrical board to power the pump. The state under PFAS regulations is requiring the District to test all water sources even if not in use and that is the reason Well #1 must get up and running as soon as possible.
- Roof on well #4 is in the works.
- KOH tank project is ongoing.
- The District has been approved for the 0% interest loan.
- At a Town Counsel Meeting it was reported to Water Chairman David Jones that the Airport Commission admitted they polluted the ground water. Chief Pulsifer said he found a copy of the report on the internet. Chairman Jones requests the Chief sent a copy to him and the Water Superintendent.
- The District has sent two letters to the County. The County responded to the first letter. The District will be working with their consultant BETA Group. BETA Group will come onto the District property and take well samples and put in a gage to measure the levels of the pond. They will have a licensed site professional. There be an objective eye to look at our property. The Superintendent's believe is the County will try to show the Airport has polluted our property

more than the fire academy. The second letter sent should arrive just as the two new commissioners are sworn in from our environmental attorney Dennis Murphy. The District is not happy with the County mediation plan being use by the County. The County is planning on capping the site without removing the contaminated soil. The District would like to see the soil removed first then the site capped. They are also pumping and treating the site from remote wells instead of putting a new well where the pollution is located.

- Superintendent and Chairman Jones haven't heard a word from the housing project developer (New England Development) since their meeting last month.
- Preliminary budget given to Prudential Committee. Chairman David Jones the reason for the increase in the budget is the testing of the water supply the state is requiring the District to do.

#### 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. No new progress on the ladder truck grant.
- **(2019)** Assistance to Firefighters Grant – SAFER Program for a firefighter position. Firefighter Watts started January 4<sup>th</sup> and is on his two week ordination on the day shift. He will be assigned to Group 1 effective January 20th.
- **(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.
- Will be submitting for MEMA Federal reimbursement for COVID expenses. Have completed applicant briefing with FEMA representative. Chief is itemizing 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. Chief completed application and submitted it on October 13, 2020. The desk review reduced the amount submitted by \$17,451.47, mostly the AeroClave Decontamination Machine. Revised amount for reimbursement is approximately \$27,291.85.
- Staffing Study is ongoing. Report is estimated to be delivered is by Prudential Committee February meeting.
- It is time for the annual review of ambulance billing rates. Chief recommends no change in rates and the Prudential Committee goes along with the recommendation.

#### Treasurer:

- Cash has been balanced to the bank and the general ledger with no variances for the month of December.

- Treasurer is on track to finish fiscal '21 under budget.
- The first of four grant installments for the fire truck grant has been received in the amount of \$ 190,476.19.
- Treasurer contacted District Counsel Charles Sabbatt who is reviewing the sample OPEB Trust document. He approved the document but needs time to edit it for the District. If the OPEB Trust is created it will reduce the unfunded expense and help with the our bond ratings.
- Fiscal 22 will see about a 10% budget increase due to increases in retirement assessment, debt payment, audit expenses and taxes. An audit is required for any grant greater than \$750,000 which caused the audit increase.
- Fiscal 2020 audit is complete and a copy is in the Treasurer's office available for review.
- The current auditor was only under contract for FY 2020. Treasurer requested quotes from three firms for auditing the District. Only our current auditor, Roselli, Clark and Associates, sent in a bid for single audit for the grant plus the next three year. The quote is about \$500 to \$700 less a year than what we are currently paying. Treasurer recommends going with the Roselli.

Clerk:

- Reminder on annual reports. Water Department has submitted their report.

Prudential Committee:

- Prudential Committee Chairman wanted to talk about the high deductible health insurance plan contribution. With a new employee being hired who wants to join the plan. What should be the District's contribution to the plan be for an employee hired after the beginning of the year. Should it be the full amount or some prorated amount. It was decided it should be a prorated amount.  
**Joshua Miller makes a motion that any employee hired after the start of the fiscal year the District's contribution to the High Deductible Health Insurance Plan will be prorated by a fraction the numerator of which will be the number of months left in the Fiscal Year and the denominator will be 12 times the District's yearly contribution amount. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** The current contribution for the fiscal year is \$1,500 for individual and \$3,000 for a family. The new employee will receive ½ of the yearly amount.
- Prudential Chairman Jones will talk to Peter Eleftherakis about calling a By-law Committee meeting to discuss possible change to the Ambulance Fund use. The change would allow the Prudential Committee to spend a certain amount from the Fund for emergency appropriations during a declared emergency without voter approval.
- Sometime between now and end of March the Prudential Committee will have to meet with the Treasurer, Fire Chief and Deputy to discuss contracts. Any changes could effect budgets.
- Prudential Committee Chairman Jones suggests to the Fire Chief to get heating engineer to make sure the new boilers have enough capacity and what type of system is best for the station.
- Chairman Jones requests the Deputy call the Old King's Highway Historical Commissioner to if they have any objection to using Hardie Board instead of clapboard on the Fire Station.
- Chairman Jones suggested maybe putting all the Fire Station repairs into one article.

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

**Next Meeting is February 9, 2021**

**FINAL OPERATIONAL BUDGETS AND PRELIMINARY WARRANT ARE DUE IN MARCH  
REVIEW OF WARRANT WITH DISTRICT COUNSEL AND MODERATOR IS IN APRIL  
ANNUAL MEETING IS IN MAY**