

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

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Prudential Committee Chairperson William Jones at the Water Department Office, 1841 Phinney's Lane, Barnstable. Also, in attendance were Prudential Committee members Peter Eastman and Andrew Miller, Water Commissioner Dave Mason, Water Superintendent Sean Anderson, Chief Christopher Beal, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Brailey, Treasurer Rick Buffington, Moderator Peter Eleftherakis and Clerk Charles Eager.

The Moderator was at the meeting to discuss having a Warrant Night. It was decided to hold it near the end of April. Chief Beal will go to his contact at Saint Mary's to see if the room is available on either March 29th, March 30th or April 1st to hold the meeting. The Moderator will also explain the process of the meeting. It was decided also to give out the motions being read the night of the meeting.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Classification Hearing and December Minutes as amended. The December meeting minutes had a couple of errors in spelling. Scott Heaslip last name was spelt wrong and it is Anthony's Cummaquid and not Antony's Cummaquid under Water Department.

Water:

- The Water Department is under budget for FY 2025, 43% spent over 50% of the year.
- Received the first large installment of Grant money for the Treatment Plant in the amount of \$1,371,875.29. The Superintendent will keep submitting for reimbursement until our max is awarded (2.388 million). After that he will go back to applying for SRF reimbursement.
- The Superintendent met with Steve Olson regarding the Pilot Testing at Wells 3 & 4 this winter. He will send over a proposal. He also spoke to him about the next steps for satellite well for well 3. Again, he is putting together a proposal for the next steps.
- Tier 2 chemical reporting is due March 1st. The Superintendent has a workshop he will be attending Thursday to review reporting and any new requirements.
- Received letter from Wilkens Phase II. Superintendent will have more information next meeting.
- Capital Articles were submitted to the Prudential Committee.
- Superintendent requested the allocation of the rate increase going to the Water System Improvement be increased from 7% to 10%. The Treasurer said the District can support an increase up to 10%. **Motion made by Peter Eastman to increase the allocation percentage to 10 percent, motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Fire:

- Fire Department is on budget for FY 2025. 53% spent over 56% of the year.
- Calendar year 2024 ended with 1,876 tons. This is a 6% increase over the previous year.
- No update on the Regional Emergency Communication Center Grant.

- The Fire Department applied for the Massachusetts State Equipment Grant. The Department request various PPE items for the members as well as portable radio batteries. They should hear in January 2025.
- The new Engine 205 preconstruction will start in June 2025. December 2025 is the anticipated delivery date.
- FF/EMT Andrew Riley is 50% through recruit training at the Mass. Fire Academy and is scheduled to graduate February 14, 2025.
- The FY 2026 Budget is completed and presented to the Prudential Committee.
- The FY 2026 Capital Articles were presented to the Prudential Committee.
- This year's Long Range Capital Plan was presented to the Prudential Committee.
- The Chief asked the Prudential Committee to consider increasing the Ambulance rates. The rates haven't increased since FY2018. The Chief presented a handout showing the rates of the other Fire District. The proposed increase would put the District in the upper middle of the other departments. **Motion made by Peter Eastman to increase the Ambulance billing rate by the amount recommended on the handout presented effective February 1st, motion was seconded and passed unanimously. (BLS - \$2,300, ALS 1 -\$2,600 and ALS 2 - \$3,200)**
- The Chief then presented a request by the Barnstable Professional Firefighters Local 3276 to increase FY 2026 line item for college courses. To date in FY 2025 that line item (\$15,000) has been overspent and no college payments are available. The Prudential Committee takes it under consideration. Will discuss it during budget discussions.

Treasurer:

- The Treasurer is on track to finish FY 2025 under budget.
- The December cashbook has been reconciled to the bank and general ledger with no variances.
- Audit draft should be ready in a week or so.
- The Treasurer presented his operating budget.
- No Capital Articles.

Clerk:

- Nomination papers will be available around February 3, 2025.

Prudential:

- The Building Committee working with the Architect and the Fire Department has worked on:
 - The architectural team finished the Design Development phase. The
 - Check estimate on the project cost is due this week.
 - Detailed space planning for individual rooms is ongoing with weekly meetings with Fire Station staff.
 - Old Kings Highway Committee approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for both the new building and the demolition of the existing Water Department Building at the December 18th meeting.
 - Meeting with abutters to review plans was held December 16th at St. Mary's.
 - Coffee with the Chief event was held at Sturgis Library on December 21st.
 - CM at Risk RFP's were issued. Responses are due on January.

- They are meeting with the design consultants by trade to review the design of the building systems.
- The OPM let the Committee know he has Traffic Light Engineer and a Hazard Materials Survey on the Water Department Building

- Next steps for new Fire Station are:
 - Review the DD check estimate.
 - Review the CM at Risk RFP's Selection Committee is due to meet on the 30th to review and make a recommendation to the Building Committee.
 - The OPM received feedback from the state saying the parcel the District wants to substitute does not qualify due to its value. So, the parcel must be similar and value must be equal. The OPM wants to get new appraisals valuing the parcels "as is".
 - They are continuing with the Furniture Vendor W.B. Mason for furniture planning.
 - The OPM will be amending the Context Contract for CM at Risk.
 - Begin looking for temporary offices for the Water Department with the Superintendent.

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

Next Meeting is February 11, 2025.

Preliminary Operational Budget due at February's Meeting

Final Operational Budget and Annual Reports due at March's Meeting

Meeting with Moderator and District Counsel at April's Meeting

Annual Meeting – May 14, 2025