

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 23, 2019

PRESENT: Prudential Committee members Edward Smith, Stuart Schulman, Van Northcross, Chief Joe Maruca, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Paananen, District Treasurer Ray Pirrone, District Accountant Susan Rao, District Clerk Elaine Grace, District Moderator Kate Mitchell, and Water Commissioners Kris Clark and Arne Ojala.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

CLERK’S REPORT:

The minutes of the regular December 19, 2018 Prudential Committee meeting and the December 19, 2018 Executive Session were accepted as written.

The Annual District Meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2019, and will be held at the West Barnstable Community Building. All reports for the 2018 Annual District Reports Booklet should be turned in to the District Clerk by March 1, 2019.

Joint Meeting with Water Commissioners:

Arne Ojala advised that the District Well was tested for PFOS last year, with the help of Barnstable County who gave us a reduced rate for testing. The Water Commissioners are comfortable with a budget line of \$500 in FY2020 for future testing. Mr. Northcross suggested testing for sodium. Mr. Ojala responded that when last tested, there was not much sodium present.

The Water Commissioners were asked if they had given any thought to the option of leasing/selling water. District revenue is getting tighter and tighter, and other municipalities are looking for water resources – i.e., Hyannis, Sandwich. The District’s well is a commodity we own, that could provide a revenue stream.

The Water Commissioners agreed to look into the possibilities.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The following warrants were approved for payment:

AP 19-20	28,774.82
AP 19-21	15,880.72
AP 19-22	15,104.00
AP 19-23	30,141.70
PR 19-26	16,673.57
PR 19-27	14,837.10
PR 19-28	22,041.44
PR 19-29	12,708.52
PR 19-16	26,884.25

Mr. Pirrone advised the 2019 budget is in good shape, 49.5% on target. Tax revenue up 10% over last year. Ambulance revenue is well over last year. Unfortunately, December was a very bad month for the stock market. Fire Department operations are on budget. Call and part-time expense is down; overtime is up. The audit is still ongoing – there are no adjustments or exceptions at this time and the audit should be completed shortly.

Mr. Pirrone expressed concern that OPEB is being underfunded. Two retirees are relatively young and will have an impact on funding. Mr. Pirrone suggested increasing the contribution. The anticipated amount of free cash for the FY2020 budget amounts to \$100, 715.

Ambulance Billing & 2019 Rates:

Chief Maruca advised that ambulance transports are up. The Chief reported that Cape Cod Hospital has applied for designation as a Level 2 Trauma Center. If accepted, it will cut down transports to other area hospitals. The Chief noted that ambulance inspections are focusing more and more on documentation and reports.

The Chief advised a 3% increase in 2019 ambulance rates.

Mr. Schulman motioned, Mr. Northcross seconded, and it was unanimously voted that the West Barnstable Fire District set its 2019 Ambulance Rates, as of February 1, 2019, based upon a 3% increase over its 2018 ambulance rates.

FY2020 Draft Budget:

The updated draft of the FY2020 budget was reviewed and discussed. The Chief advised there were no significant changes to Article 7. The Chief recommended self-insuring a "Critical Illness" fund, similar to the Stabilization Fund. The budget numbers for OPEB, and Debt Service need to be reworked. The Chief will rework the draft for discussion at the February meeting.

Mr. Schulman suggested the idea of sending a letter to tax exempted entities within the District who avail themselves of our services, to see if they might be willing to make a contribution. Mr. Pirrone received a list from the Town.

Fire District Quorum Changes:

Three proposals to amend the Annual District Meeting Quorum were presented. Option 1 required No Quorum, Option 2 suggested a 10 voter quorum, and Option 3 called for no quorum for the Annual District Meeting, with any Special District Meeting requiring a quorum of 15 registered district voters be present. Any By-law amendment requires a 2/3 vote at Annual District Meeting.

Mr. Northcross motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and it was unanimously voted to put Option 3 on the Annual District Meeting on the 2020 Warrant, as follows:

Amend Section 4 of Article IV of the West Barnstable Fire District Bylaws by striking out the words "A quorum for conducting an Annual or Special District Meeting shall consist of twenty-five (25) registered voters qualified to vote in West Barnstable Fire District Elections" and inserting in place thereof the following:

"There shall be no quorum for conducting an Annual District Meeting. A quorum for conducting a Special District Meeting shall consist of fifteen (15) registered voters qualified to vote in West Barnstable District Elections."

Retiree Health Insurance Contribution Change:

After discussion and review of the West Barnstable Fire District Health Insurance Policy, the following changes were approved by the Prudential Committee.

Mr. Schulman motioned, Mr. Northcross seconded, and it was unanimously voted to amend the West Barnstable Fire District Retiree Health Insurance Policy as follows:

- 1. That the Fire District contribution for retired full-time staff who were hired on or before June 30, 2019, their spouse, their children, or their other dependents, the District will pay seventy-five per cent (75%) of the retiree's health insurance premium.**
- 2. That the Fire District Contribution for retired full-time staff who were hired after June 30, 2019, their spouse, their children, or other dependents, the District will pay fifty per cent (50%) of the retiree's health insurance premium.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Cape & Islands EMS – Exploring Alternatives:

The Chief reported that C & I EMS is undergoing some unrest with services and costs. Two Fire Departments are leaving – Bourne and Sandwich, and more will follow. The Chief feels that C & I will soon unravel and he is working on a contingency plan. He has been meeting regularly with other Cape Cod Fire Chiefs and C & I, and has met with the new Director Donna Rex and expressed his concerns.

Staff Changes & Hiring:

Janice King's last day as West Barnstable Administrative Assistant is Friday, January 25th. There will be a lunch in her honor and to say goodbye AT Noon at the Fire Station. All are welcome to stop by and wish her well.

Andy Mandel will be filling Lt. Clough's position. He is in paramedic school and will work the day shift, Monday-Friday, beginning February 1st. No one has applied for the Friday part-time slot. Call Firefighter Freddy Norgueira will be leaving in February for a full time position at Barnstable Fire. (The Chief reported that Brewster Fire has a full time slot open, and no one has applied.) Curtis Cottrell will be taking his paramedic test shortly. The Department has 20 new applicants, testing will be February 10, and a new class will start on April 18,

Quarterly Performance Report – October 2018-December 2018:

The Quarterly Performance Report was distributed.

Annual Awards Dinner – February 2, 2019 – 6 PM-West Barnstable Deer Club:

All are welcome to attend. Jan King, Keith Stranger and Muffy Clough will be honorees.

Fire Station Mural:

Carly Maruca created a mural on the wall of the apparatus bay. We will use a photograph of the mural on the front cover of the 2018 Annual Report. She did a great job on the mural!

DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT:

Apparatus Status:

The ladder truck is able to go out on calls, carrying tools and equipment.

Building Status:

The war against water continues.

The cistern in front of West Parish was damaged. The police found the license plate from a rental car. Bortolotti called in to dig down to find out what needs to be repaired.

Mr. Schulman suggested a call to Cape Light Compact to see what lighting upgrades and insulation options are available.

At 6:15 PM, Mr. Northcross motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and it was unanimously voted, in a roll call vote, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining, and not to return to public session.

Chief Maruca and Mr. Schulman have responded to the Union requests and sent them a draft contract for FY2020-2022, and await a response from the Union. (See draft attached)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Grace, District Clerk