

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – DECEMBER 19, 2018
REGULAR MEETING

Present: Chief Maruca, Deputy Chief Paananen, Prudential Committee members Ed Smith, Van Northcross, Stuart Schulman; District Treasurer Ray Pirrone, District Accountant Susan Rao, and District Clerk Elaine Grace.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Smith at 4:05 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Clerk's Report:

The minutes of November 14, 2018 were accepted as written. The minutes of the Tax Classification Hearing on November 16, 2018 were accepted with corrections.

The location of the Annual Meeting is still undecided. The Clerk has contacted Town Clerk Ann Quirk for a determination regarding the Community Building and its venue as a polling place.

District annual reports to be included in the booklet are due March 1, 2019 or earlier if possible.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer advised that he met with the Barnstable Tax Collector – they are in the process of catching up on their reports. Tax revenue is ahead of last year. Ambulance revenue is up 40%. Expenses are under control, and revenue is up. The Treasurer will be meeting with DOR representative in January – he anticipates about \$153,000 will be available in free cash. The auditors have completed their field work and a clean opinion with no issues is expected in late January.

The following warrants were approved for payment:

PR19-20	\$23,689.60
PR19-21	\$11,291.65
PR19-22	\$17,779.50
PR19-23	\$29,724.52
PR19-24	\$22,144.64
PR19-25	\$12,835.31
AP19-18	\$27,972.05
AP19-19	\$12,158.93

The Chief reported that ambulance runs were up 10%, surpassing the past two years – he has no explanation. The Chief advised that new ambulance rates will be proposed at the January meeting.

The Chief submitted a request and proposal for a one-time pay adjustment for the Chief and the Deputy Chief to bring their salaries in line with other officials in the region. The Chief and Deputy are substantially underpaid in comparison with other departments. The Chief suggested the following increase for consideration:

Chief - \$130,000 to \$140,000

Deputy - \$110,000 to \$120,000

The Chief also pointed out that the West Barnstable Chief and Deputy also provide their own vehicles and pay their own fuel costs and insurance, whereas most other departments provide a take-home vehicle.

Mr. Northcross stated that the Prudential Committee is "...aware of the situation – and we need to do better and make the leap – ready or not."

A draft of the FY2020 was reviewed with an emphasis on keeping costs to 3% or less over last year. There are 3 new employees at the lower end of the salary scale as well as no anticipated retirement payouts. The Chief and the Treasurer are identifying other areas where costs can be cut. In the way of additions, the Chief is looking at increasing workmen s compensation medical coverage from \$150,000 to \$200,000 to cover on the job injuries and waiting on quotes for Critical Illness Insurance coverage for not in the line of duty illness, such as cancer, heart disease etc. The Chief has no special articles for the warrant at this time.

The Chief presented drafts of Capital Plans for Apparatus, Facilities and Portable Equipment for review and discussion by the Prudential Committee. The Chief will continue to refine the plans and they will be included in the Annual District Reports booklet.

The proposal for Retiree Health Insurance Policies required further clarification with regard to including or excluding retiree spouse.

A third option for a District quorum would call for a different number for a Special Meeting vs. Annual Meeting – no decision has been made yet on a quorum number.

Discussion took place regarding the District's potential water supply and the Chief will reach out to the Water Commissioners and invite them to the January meeting.

Fire Chief's Report:

1. **Staff Updates:** None
2. **OSHA Implementation:** Staff continues to work on developing new policies.
3. **Emergency Activity:** Department has been very busy.
4. **Community Events:** The department held a very successful Santa Pancake Breakfast; Christmas trees and wreaths are still for sale at the old Fire Station.
5. **Street Light Maintenance Contract:** Contract is up for renewal, no significant change
6. **Administrative Assistant:** An offer will be made to the successful candidate on Thursday.

Deputy Chief's Report:

1. **Career Hiring Status:** There will be a meeting Thursday to finalize the recommendations.
2. **Building Repairs/Maintenance:** Lt. Murray continues to wage war on water in the basement.
3. **Apparatus:**
 1. **L297** – The Deputy advised two proposals have been received – the bare minimum to repair the pinholes is approximately \$72,000-73,000 (not including the torque box); the second proposal addresses refurbishing the back half of the truck for \$171,679. Without UL certification, the truck is basically unsaleable. It is a unique truck, smaller and provides a level of safety. The department needs to answer some tough questions – what is the real value to the department, what is the frequency of use, is it needed – the longer it is let go, the more it will cost to repair.

Mr. Northcross motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and it was unanimously voted in a roll call vote at 6:06 PM to go out of Regular Session and into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, and not to reconvene in Regular Session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Grace, District Clerk

