

Approved April 17, 2019

**WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT**  
**PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES – MARCH 27, 2019**

Present: Prudential Committee members Van Northcross, Ed Smith and Stuart Schulman, Chief Maruca, District Treasurer Ray Pironne, District Accountant Susan Rao, District Clerk Elaine Grace, Water Commissioners Kris Clark, Arne Ojala and Mark Wirtanen, District Moderator Kate Mitchell, District Counsel Charles Sabatt, Auditors George Gillmore and Robert Lynch, and members of the public Joanne Wallace, Steve Wallace, Nancy Meagher, Lenny Clark, George Zoto, and Fran Manzilli.

Chairman Ed Smith called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AUDITORS REPORT**

George Gillmore reviewed the objectives of the audit process and the results of the West Barnstable Fire District audit for FY2019. The auditors rendered an unmodified opinion, which means that the District's financial statements are presented fairly, in all material aspects, in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). Rob Lynch reported that the District is in good financial shape with no problems or issues. In response to a question concerning the appointment of an additional signatory on District accounts as a backup to the District Treasurer, Mr. Lynch replied he would work with the District to effect a possible change in the By-laws. He did not see an additional signer as a negative.

**WATER COMMISSIONERS UPDATE SALE/LEASE OF WATER**

Kris Clark advised she received a letter today from Allison Rescigno at Mass DEP concerning the status of District Well #15-75. At this time, although a pump test was submitted and approved by the DEP in AUGUST OF 1977, the DEP does not recognize the well as an approved public water supply since more than 5 years has elapsed. The District would be required to begin a new approval process. The DEP letter stated also that the well is not considered a monitoring well as it was installed for the purpose of conducting a pump test.

There was much discussion as to whether the West Barnstable Fire District owns the well or not, and whether the District's easement would expire in 2022 as stated in one document or whether that was superseded by another agreement with the Town of Barnstable.. District Counsel Charles Sabatt has searched the records at the Registry of Deeds and has found that the Town of Barnstable granted an exclusive and perpetual easement in 2000 to the West Barnstable Fire District along with the right to install infrastructure. The Town was to prepare within 12 months a plan delineating the well site, and upon filing the plan with the Registry was to convey a Quitclaim deed to the property to the Fire District. Arne Ojala stated that he believes the plan was filed and approved. Other questions concerned whether the Water Commissioners/Fire District has the right to extract water for resale.

By consensus, it was agreed to allow Attorney Sabatt to continue researching the status of the well ownership and to explore whether said well, if developed, could be used as a revenue resource for the West Barnstable Fire District.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

**Mr. Northcross motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and it was unanimously voted to approve the regular meeting and Executive Session minutes of February 20, 2019 as written.**

The clerk reported the District Annual Report was in process at the printer's. Some further information is still needed for inclusion in the booklet.

Nominations for the District Election are closed. Mr. Northcross is the only declared candidate for Prudential Committee, and Kristine Clark is the only declared candidate for Water Commissioner.

**Mr. Northcross motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and it was unanimously voted to approve the FY2020 Warrant as presented and to include in the Annual Report as printed.**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The following warrants were approved for payment:

AP19-26	22,271.90
AP19-27	3,545.93
AP19-28	44,134.78
PR19-27a	81.95
PR19-34	21,579.92
PR19-35	13,266.77
PR19-36	23,914.43
PR19-37	867.75
PR19-38	14,691.78
PR19-39	21,991.14
PR19-40	13,939.79

Treasurer Pirrone updated the FY2019 budget. Tax revenue is in line with last year. Ambulance revenue is up 19% over last year. Regular and call firefighter salaries are down, but part-time and overtime are up. Overall, the budget is on target.

Treasurer Pirrone reviewed his OPEB analysis and recommended that the Fire District needs to keep working on reducing and managing its OPEB liability. To date the net contribution is \$29,400 and the liability is (\$34,233). He noted new actuarial data will not be available until August 2019 and that will change his calculations.

Mr. Pirrone advised he will be sending a letter to the Town Collector and the Director of Assessing asking for the release of overlay funds in the amount of \$42,000. There is a reserve of \$114,000. Mr. Pirrone suggests leaving a 5-year reserve in place.

**Mr. Northcross motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and it was unanimously voted to approve the request of Mr. Pirrone to the Board of Assessors for a release of \$42,000 in tax overlay funds to the West Barnstable Fire District.**

The appointment of an Assistant Treasurer and a change in the Bylaws to create such a position was tabled. **Mr. Northcross motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and it was voted to defer this item until next fiscal year.**

A discussion of Personnel Policy Changes and MEPA Compliance was deferred to the April meeting.

### **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

- a. **Emergency Calls** – Routine calls, nothing out of the ordinary. There will a controlled fire burn in the West Barnstable Conservation area on Friday and Saturday, April 5-6, depending on the weather.
- b. **Community Events** – Annual Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, April 6th at the Fire Station from 5-7 PM.
- c. **Staff Updates** – Curtis Cottrell passed his Paramedic practicum last Sunday, and will be taking his written test April 6-9. Rebecca Tatzel has passed her Paramedic exam. Several more firefighters have moved on to other departments – Mike Amick to Bourne, John Mahoney to Sandwich. On May 18, 2019, 9 West Barnstable firefighters will be graduating from the Barnstable County Fire Academy.

There was no Deputy Chief's Report – Deputy Chief Paananen was called out on an emergency just before tonight's meeting began.

No Executive Session was held – the Chief advised there was nothing to report regarding collective bargaining.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Grace