

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES – DECEMBER 18, 2019

Present: Prudential Committee members Ed Smith, Van Northcross, Stuart Schulman; Chief Maruca; District Treasurer Ray Pironne; District Clerk Elaine Grace; Strategic Planning Committee members David Cameron, Andy Lee, and Holly Rogers; AmeriCorps Intern Emily Smith.

Call To Order:

Chairman Van Northcross called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Clerks's Report:

Mr. Smith motioned, Mr. Schulman seconded, and the minutes of the November 20, 2019 Prudential Committee meeting were approved as written.

Public Comment:

No public in attendance.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee met with the Prudential Committee and other District officials and engaged in a SWOT exercise. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Strategic Planning members Holly Rogers, Andrew Lee, and David Cameron were present. AmeriCorps intern Emily Smith facilitated the discussion.

Strengths included the extensive training of staff and overall management of the department. Another strength is the cooperative working relationship between volunteers and full-time staff. Also a strength is the fact that the Chief and the Deputy Chief are putting a succession plan and policies in place in anticipation of the Chief's retirement.

Weaknesses include personnel turnover, an ongoing issue. Also, a declining commercial tax base, and the cost of replacement equipment. Financially unable to hire more full time employees. A three member Prudential Committee is also felt as a weakness, due to the Open Meeting Law. A five member Board would be less apt to create a violation.

Threats included climate change, stronger and more frequent storms, sea level rise. The idea of consolidation of the fire districts. West Barnstable residents are currently well served by the West Barnstable Fire District. Consolidation could invite union issues, increased debt (i.e. Hyannis fire station bond), COMM (100% health insurance).

Opportunities involve cost sharing with other Districts, which is already taking place with Barnstable and Sandwich Fire Departments. The well behind the fire station is a potential resource and the District is currently exploring possibilities.

Treasurer’s Report:

FY2020 – Tax collection is at 52%, up 12% over last year. Collector’s office much more efficient. Treasurer Ray Pirrone advised the auditors are behind – anticipates that field work will be done in January and report should be ready by late February, early March. Mr. Pirrone does not think the delay will impact our “free cash” status.

The following warrants were approved for payment:

PR 20-21	\$11,398.27
PR 20-22	\$19,806.83
PR 20-23	\$30,228.85
PR 20-24	\$29,528.99
AP 20-13	\$16,579.35
AP 20-14	\$21,620.13
AP 20-15	\$13,361.25

Ambulance Rate Setting 2020:

Discussion moved to January Prudential Committee meeting.

Draft 2021 Budget:

Final budget will be available and discussed at January Prudential Committee meeting.

Room Use Policy:

It was suggested to include “No Alcohol” to the policy. The draft will be finalized and sent out to Prudential Committee prior to January meeting.

Well Easement Status Update/Water Commissioners:

No Commissioners present.

Old Fire Station Farmer’s Market:

Chairman Northcross will explore the possibility of using the property for Farmer’s Market during summer season.

Fire Chief’s Report:

AFG Grant Update: Finished installation of equipment. Waiting for a quote from Comptronics. FEMA released the funding today.

State Grant: Andy Mandel has written two grants: Gloves and hoods, and washing machine for cleaning turnout gear.

Station Lights Update: Problem with timer has been resolved by Glenn Electric. A sheet rock screw punctured the power line. Rise Engineering has been contacted for reimbursement of \$3500 invoice from Glenn Electric.

Emergency Calls: Lower this year than previous years.

Promotions: The following were promoted to Lieutenant status: Ian Diaz, Luke Walsh, and Steve Frye.

294 Status: New England Fire Apparatus in Connecticut has been re-instated as the repair service for Rosenbauer. A list of issues regarding 294 has been submitted to New England Fire, and is awaiting approval from Rosenbauer.

297 Insurance Status: Rogers and Gray has requested 297 be removed from insurance policy, due to possible litigation issues. Currently, 297 is in service as a pumper, the aerial is out of service. The Chief advised that by law, a municipality is not required to carry insurance. Since he just received the news, there has been no opportunity to talk over the options available.

Executive Session: Anticipated for January meeting to discuss land use issues.

The next Prudential Committee meeting is scheduled for **January 15, 2020** and anticipated topics include Semi-Annual Review of Credit Card reimbursement and Annual Review of Administrative Policies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Grace, District Clerk