

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

PRESENT: Carlton B. Crocker, David Lawler, Prudential Committee; Molly Stevens, Clerk/Treasurer; Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer; Byron Eldridge, Fire Chief; Michael Rogers, Deputy Fire Chief; Craig Crocker Water Superintendent

NOT PRESENT: John Lacoste, Prudential Committee; Patrick Hill, Deputy Fire Chief

The meeting convened at 5:33 PM.

Public Comment: None.

David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6 and November 20, 2024 meetings as written. Carlton Crocker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Craig Crocker: Craig passed out the year-end pumpage report, noting consistency in the November and December numbers.

Craig presented a draft of the FY 2026 operation and maintenance budget. He will need to fine-tune some of the numbers, with the current electricity contract expiring at the end of 2025. There was a brief discussion of the rates and when to begin the negotiation process. Craig expects to have three or four articles for the Annual Warrant Book.

Byron Eldridge: Chief Eldridge handed out a copy of the minutes of the December 16, 2024 Fire Commissioners' Meeting. He reported that Deputy Hill has been heavily engaged in the budget process and he expects to have a draft to present by the next meeting.

Repairs to Boat 310, the 25-foot safe boat, are expected to be completed this week. It will go back in the water as early as possible so it will be available for training before the season starts.

Chief Eldridge stated that Deputy Hill will have information to share with the Prudential Committee on the fuel management system in the near future. He is scheduled to complete Fire Officer's classes through the State Fire Academy in the next week or two. Deputy Rogers will be signed up to take the same classes.

The change of command ceremony is scheduled for Friday, February 28th at 10 o'clock at Station One. Station coverage from other towns has been coordinated to allow those on duty to attend.

Molly Stevens: Molly passed out the expenditure reports through December 31st and we are on target for the halfway point of the fiscal year. She briefly went over the stabilization funds and her goals for funding the needs of the district as we move forward with the FY 26 budgets.

Molly discussed the final step in the process of realigning our pay cycle to pay regular time and over time on the same schedule. To accomplish this, we will need to pay all staff a single week's pay instead of a bi-weekly pay for one pay cycle. Molly will draft a memo and subsequent notices for staff. Employees are encouraged to reach out as soon as possible if they feel that this will cause a hardship for them.

There was a brief discussion of the Cotuit dispatch fees which have not been evaluated in quite some time. Molly will do a cost analysis to bring to the Committee for FY26. It was agreed to level fund it and bill them accordingly for the current fiscal year. There will be a future discussion when all members of the Prudential Committee are present.

Molly shared a written request for a salary increase for Rich Sargent. He has served as the IT Director for four years without any salary increases. Carlton Crocker stated that he is very pleased with the way Rich keeps things going and feels that an increase is warranted.

David Lawler made a motion to approve a 10% salary increase for Rich Sargent. Carlton Crocker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Molly received a notice that our contract with Pine Ridge for streetlights is up for renewal. Chapter 30 B of the Massachusetts General Laws requires that an extension of a contract per the renewal clause must be brought to district meeting. Molly asked if everyone agreed on renewing before drafting an article for Attorney Murphy. Cristin has been working closely with Pine Ridge to ensure that the information they have is accurate.

David Lawler made a motion to put Pine Ridge on an article for renewal. Carlton Crocker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Molly passed out a schedule for the election and district meeting. The deadline for individual reports for the book will be April 4, 2025, but that is subject to change if we change printers. She will send out reminders for other important deadlines.

There was a discussion about having a joint meeting with the Board of Water Commissioners in February, but there was no decision made on that at this time.

Next Meeting: TBD

Public Comment: None

Carlton Crocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 PM.


Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer