

**CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS  
FIRE DISTRICT  
WWW.COMMFIREDISTRICT.COM**

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT  
2024 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING**



**1926**



**2024**

**ANNUAL ELECTION**

Centerville Fire Station  
Route 28, Centerville  
**MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024**  
**8:00 AM – 7:00 PM**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Centerville Fire Station  
Route 28, Centerville  
**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

**If you want to vote by Absentee Ballot please call: Prudential Committee Office 508-790-2395**





**CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT  
DISTRICT OFFICERS  
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

Carlton B. Crocker, Chairman

Term Expires 2026

David V. Lawler

Term Expires 2025

John A. Lacoste

Term Expires 2024

**CLERK/TREASURER**

Molly Stevens

**ASST. CLERK/TREASURER**

Cristin Van Buren

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

Scott Crosby, Chairman

Term Expires 2025

Kevin Medeiros

Term Expires 2024

Peter Hansen

Term Expires 2026

**WATER SUPERINTENDENT**

Craig A. Crocker

**ASST. WATER SUPERINTENDENT**

Glenn Snell

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

Mark Macallister, Chairman

Term Expires 2026

Edward P. Riley

Term Expires 2025

Douglas Brown

Term Expires 2024

**FIRE CHIEF**

Michael J. Winn

**DEPUTY CHIEF**

Byron L. Eldridge

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Richard Sargent/ Thrive

**MODERATOR**

Charles Sabatt

Term Expires 2024

## *In Memorium*



Captain Miles "Mac" Pawloski, retired from COMM Fire in 1997 after 36 years of service.



Firefighter Gary Johnson, retired from COMM Fire in 2015 after 26 years of service.



## **CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT**

### **REPORT OF THE CLERK**

The Annual voting and District Meeting will be held at the Centerville station's second floor meeting hall. District voting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024 from 8:00am-7:00pm. The Annual District meeting will be the following night, May 21, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Absentee voting ballots are available please call the Prudential Office at 508-790-2395 to request an absentee ballot application. May 18, 2024 5:00 p.m. is the deadline for ballots to be returned by mail to the Prudential Office.

### **DUTIES**

The duties of the Prudential Committee include, but are not limited to, calling elections and both Annual and District Meetings, securing short and long-term borrowing for all District financing, overseeing fiscal expenditures, approving contracts for goods and services, negotiations for contractual labor agreements, and providing general direction and supervision of the Information Technology Department. The District currently employs a part time in house technician and an outside provider, Thrive. This combination has proven to be cost-effective with faster response times and overall improved service.

### **AMBULANCE BILLING**

For the past 26 years the Fire Department has benefited from the proceeds of Ambulance billing. The total amount of income as of April 1, 2024 is \$30,062,215.35. In Fiscal Year 2025 those funds will offset the expenses of the ambulance/rescue service by \$1,570,459.62.

In December 2019 through the normal bidding process, the District selected Coastal Medical Billing and that company will remain as the billing provider for the next three to five years.

### **STREETLIGHTS**

We are seeing continued savings in our monthly usage due to the high efficiency and low energy usage of the LED lights. As always, we continue to advise you that if you see a malfunctioning streetlight, please contact the Prudential Office at (508) 790-2375 extension 2 to report the outage with the pole number and the location.

### **ENERGY OPTIONS**

#### **Gasoline and Diesel**

Gasoline and Diesel fuel price bids are obtained through the Barnstable County Collaborative, a regional government of Cape Cod, will be held on May 8, 2024, after publication of the District's Annual Meeting warrant. The District will again select the OEP (Operations, Expense and Profit) option which in past years has had a financial benefit to

COMM. Last year's 12 months, March to March, price average cost for gasoline was \$3.04 per gallon and diesel was \$4.18 per gallon. This means whatever the price at the time of delivery will be "marked up" above that of a published "Boston low price" posted in the Journal of Commerce on a certain delivery day. That differential along with the fixed pricing becomes COMM's price for 2025.

### **Natural Gas**

National Grid has been the District's gas supplier for many years and is the only game in town, at least until natural gas becomes a biddable procurement.

### **CVEC Power Agreement-Net Metering Credits**

The COMM Fire District is in its eighth year of a 20-year agreement with Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CVEC) to purchase net metering credits (NMC) for electricity supplied by Syncarpha Capital, a developer-provider of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic installation in Dartmouth, Massachusetts that provides 2.25 million kilowatts of net metering credits to the Water, Fire and Streetlights of the District. The 2024 dollar value breakdown is: Water Department 234,912.07, Fire Department \$56,763.49, and Prudential Streetlights \$16,354.31, totaling more than \$95,904.55 more than the previous 2023 income.

### **Electric Supply**

The District's provider is Hudson Energy Services, LLC. The 48-month agreement started in January 2022 and will produce an annual estimated volume (KWH) of 2,531,135 at a cost of 0.1180 per (\$KWH).

### **AUDIT**

Our audit for Fiscal Year 2023 was completed by Roselli, Clark & Associates of Woburn, MA. Copies are available by request at the District office.

### **LABOR RELATIONS**

The very purpose of the COMM District is to service and protect the health, safety and property of the District's citizens, and to provide them with clean, flowing, potable water. This is accomplished only through the dedicated and professional services of the District's employees. Our labor force is our most important asset to ensure emergency response and assistance to the citizens and to ensure a safe and clean water supply.

COMM Firefighter, Dispatcher, and Water Department employee contracts are due to expire at the end of the fiscal year and good faith bargaining has commenced with each of the unions. The Civil Union employees are presently under contract.

### **TREASURER'S NOTE**

I want to thank all of my peers for their unwavering support through my first year here at the COMM Fire District. I would also like to reiterate that I am committed to ensuring that we maximize investments, keep on track with our OPEB Liability Trust Fund, and keep the District fiscally sound as we move through slightly uncertain economic times. I am looking forward to

continuing good relationships among departments, as well as forging new ones as we transition into a new administration at the Fire Department.

### **SIGN OF THE TIMES**

With inflation and interest rates still on the rise, it has been extremely difficult to budget for the 2025 fiscal period. There are budgeted items such as electric power, gasoline and diesel, heating fuels, the cost of good clean drinking water in future years; the list goes on and on. We have done our very best to give you, the tax-paying residents, cost-effective budgets for fiscal year 2025. Hope to see you at Station One, Centerville for voting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 8:00AM – 7:00PM and Annual District Meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 7:00PM.

### **COMMENTS**

The Prudential Committee wants to assure the District Residents that we have unending confidence in the leadership abilities within all of our COMM Departments. We are lucky to have such dedicated individuals making sure that the District can carry out all of the services we are here to provide. All committee members, firefighters, dispatchers, civilian employees, water office personnel and field technicians. And our many thanks to the Prudential Office staff, Clerk/Treasurer, Molly Stevens and Assistant Clerk/Treasurer, Cristin Van Buren, you people do such a great job – Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE  
Carlton B. Crocker, Chairman  
John A. Lacoste  
David V. Lawler

### **PRUDENTIAL OPERATIONS PERSONNEL**

Molly Stevens, Clerk/Treasurer (January, 2023)  
Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer (February, 2024)

A special thanks to Richard Sargent for keeping the “wheels turning” for the District’s Information Systems.





## **CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT REPORT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

The District's computer systems are a necessary and valuable resource utilized in all District Departments and Fire/Rescue Apparatus. The IT Department's mission is to provide the Fire District with a communications infrastructure capable of handling current and future technology requirements. Given the critical utilization of technology in emergency responses, it is imperative the system be capable of providing accurate and timely information, in multiple environments, with redundant internet connections through secure routes.

The District oversees day-to-day IT operations utilizing a part time employee who is knowledgeable with our specific software and hardware needs and by contracting with an outside vendor who maintains our servers, firewalls, backups, security and virus protection. This allows better overall management, security, service and control and provides the District computer system with 24 hour, state-of-the-art security, monitoring, and management. The District departments have 24/7 access to service and troubleshooting help through the in-house employee and IT Service company. Given the emergency nature of our technology use, up to date, well-maintained, and quickly repaired IT infrastructure is imperative to providing our services.

The District has made and will continue to make upgrades and changes as needed to keep the system running efficiently and up to date. Currently our IT hardware is in good condition with updates and replacements placed into service as needed. This year we upgraded our workstation computers, adding additional units in each Fire Station to improve access for training and report completion. Microsoft Office, RedNMX (Fire Department) and Logics (Treasurer and Water Department) continue as our main software suites.

The next year's projects for FY 2025 include:

- Scheduled replacement of laptop computers.
- Updating of the Dispatch center for better monitoring of District properties and operations.
- Upgrading our A/V systems to improve use of the District Meeting Hall as well as the basement classroom and District Conference rooms.
- Training in Cybersecurity. We received a grant from the State to train all employees in the best practices to protect our systems from cyber-attacks.

THE CURRENT IT NETWORK CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 46 workstations, 14 mobile computers, 9 tablets.
- 1 on-site server, 3 hosted servers, and 1 back-up server.
- 4 firewalls, one firewall to handle each facility: water dept. and 3 fire stations.
- Internet access with primary provider Comcast, cellular backup, and cellular data connections for mobile use.
- Microsoft Office 365.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Sargent, IT Director



**May 16, 2023**

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
AND  
ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

**Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District**

**Town of Barnstable**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In accordance with the foregoing Warrant, the ninety-seventh Annual District Meeting of the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District was held at the Centerville Fire Station Meeting Hall, 1875 Falmouth Road, Centerville, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator Charles M. Sabatt called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., as no quorum was necessary, Molly Stevens, District Clerk, then read the call and return of the Warrant. With voters present and having a copy of the Warrant for this meeting, the reading of the individual Articles of the Warrant was omitted.

**Acting Under:**

**ARTICLE #1.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to accept the Reports of the Prudential Committee, Information Systems, Fire Commissioners, and Water Commissioners as printed in the Annual Report.

**ARTICLE #2.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate and or transfer from available funds the sum of \$668.50 or some other sum for unpaid bills for the prior fiscal year.

**ARTICLE #3.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,050,869.94 and transfer and appropriate from the income of the Water Department \$879,181.06, for the ordinary operating expenses of the Prudential Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #4.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to appropriate the sum of \$2,320,000.00, from the income of the Water Department for the ordinary operating expenses of the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2024.

**ARTICLE #5.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,556,104.94, and transfer and appropriate from the income of the Ambulance Account the sum of \$1,503,870.59 for the ordinary operating expenses of the Fire Department for Fiscal Year 2024.

**ARTICLE #6.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$249,300.00 for the ordinary operating expenses of the Information Systems Department for Fiscal Year 2024, to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #7.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to appropriate from the water surplus account the sum of \$224,481.48, to pay maturing debt of the Fire District incurred by or for the Water Department; and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$171,000.00 for maturing District debt, incurred other than by or for the Water Department, for an aggregate total of \$395,481.48 for Maturing Debt, as it becomes due and payable during Fiscal Year 2024.

**ARTICLE #8.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to appropriate from Water System Development Charges income the sum of \$47,736.64 to pay accruing interest on the debt of the Fire District incurred by or for the Water Department; and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,438.50 for accruing interest on debt of the District incurred other than by or for the Water Department, making a total of \$55,175.14, for the payment of Accruing Interest on debt as it becomes due and payable during Fiscal Year 2024.

**ARTICLE #9.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$36,785.00 to be paid, in accordance with M.G.L. c.41 Section 108B or other applicable law, to the Town of Barnstable as compensation for assessors, tax collectors and any certified collectors expenses incurred on behalf of the District, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, said funds to expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #10.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Prudential Committee to either employ an outside auditor to audit the books and accounts of the District, including those of the Treasurer and Water Department; or to request an audit under the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 35, General Laws of Massachusetts, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023.

**ARTICLE #11.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2024, as permitted by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F, as amended.

**ARTICLE #12.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00 for the Stabilization Fund for future purchase of high cost Fire Department vehicles and equipment, with approval of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #13.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000.00 to deposit into the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust on account of the District's unfunded liability as described by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45 statement with the approval of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #14.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to purchase and implement hardware and software upgrades

to the District network computer system, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #15.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** for the purchase of ten (10) comprehensive sets of bunker gear, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Fire Commissioners with approval of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #16.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to borrow and appropriate the sum of \$371,000.00 and to trade in a 2009 ambulance presently in service, to enable the purchase of a new ambulance and related equipment, including a power-load system and a power cot.

**ARTICLE #17.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 for the purchase of a new 1-ton mechanic/service vehicle; and to trade or sell the current 1-ton mechanic vehicle which-ever is in the best interest of the District under the direction of the Fire Commissioners with the approval of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #18.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and or appropriate the sum of \$55,000.00 for the purchase of physical examinations for all firefighters of COMM Fire Department, compliant with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1582, **Standard on Comprehensive Occupations Medical Program for Fire Departments.**

**ARTICLE #19.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 to purchase a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton crew cab pick up truck to support the operations of the Fire Department, and to trade or sell the current  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton mechanic vehicle which-ever is in the best interest of the District under the direction of the Fire Commissioners with the approval of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #20.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and or appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 for the purchase of 60 dual band P25 UHF/800mghz pagers to be issued to all COMM Fire personnel.

**ARTICLE #21.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to replace aged and malfunctioning HVAC systems at Stations 2 and 3 and for general, on-going maintenance and repairs to existing fire stations.

**ARTICLE #22.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purchasing of a Lucas External CPR device for use on COMM Ambulances.

**ARTICLE #23.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from water surplus account the sum of \$378,373.12 for the labor, materials and equipment necessary for water service installations, repairs to the water system, leak detection, tree/brush removal, meter replacements, hydrant maintenance, replacement of undersize and older piping, water main extensions, and other related upgrades within the system, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, with the approval of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #24.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to transfer and re-appropriate from Article #15 from the May 17, 2022 District Meeting the remaining balance of \$85,000.00, for the labor, materials, equipment and appurtenances to be purchased or leased for the maintenance of a pressure filtration system located at the Old Craigville Rd. Centerville site, and installation of additional such facilities as necessary, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, with the approval of Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #25.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to appropriate from the income of the Water Department the sum of \$75,000.00 and transfer to the Trustee of the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust fund to apply to the Water Department's portion of the unfunded liability as described in G.L.c.32B section 20 and by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statement 45 with the approval of the Prudential Committee.

**ARTICLE #26.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to transfer and re-appropriate from Article 19 from the May 17, 2022 District meeting the remaining balance of \$95,636.45, to a reserve article account said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, with the approval of Prudential Committee, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, section 5C, or to take any other action thereon.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Annual District Meeting at 7:41 p.m.**

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer, Molly Stevens  
Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT  
CENTERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

COMPOSITION OF TREASURER'S CASH

Year Ended June 30, 2023

Composition of cash including cash equivalents and term deposits  
at end of year:

Petty Cash		\$ 750
Interest bearing deposits with rate of interest:		
Rockland Trust – Money Market	0.25%	4,056,229
Rockland Trust – Payroll Account	0.10%	62,990
Rockland Trust – Vendor Account	0.10%	-564,330
Harbor One – Capital Projects	4.25%	17,868
Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank – Term deposit	4.00%	36,238
Eastern Bank– Money Market	2.25%	2,433,408
Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod – Cert. of Deposit	4.65%	545,016
Bristol County Savings Bank – Money Market	2.50%	392,433
Bartholomew & Co. – OPEB Trust	N/A	5,408,063
Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank – Cert. of Deposit	4.16%	531,973
Leader Bank – Money Market	4.25%	521,885
Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank – Money Market	4.00%	420,247
Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod – Money Market	3.75%	404
Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod- Cert. of Deposit	4.94%	302,197
Rockland Trust-Checking	0.10%	21,235
Unibank – Checking	0.25%	9,062

Total Cash		<u>\$ 14,195,668</u>
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**CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT**

Balance Sheet – Government Funds

June 30, 2023

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Ambulance Fund</b>	<b>Nonmajor Governmental</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,444,432	\$1,841,720	\$524,821	\$5,810,973
Receivables:				
Property Taxes	350,931	0	0	350,931
Departmental	365,314	524,674	0	889,988
 Total assets	 \$4,160,677	 \$2,366,394	 \$524,821	 \$7,051,892
 Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	 0	 0	 0	 0
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$4,160,677</u>	<u>\$2,366,394</u>	<u>\$524,821</u>	<u>\$7,051,892</u>
 <b><u>Liabilities</u></b>				
Warrants and accounts payable	\$469,015	\$0	\$0	\$469,015
Accrued payroll and withholdings	56,713	0	0	56,713
Tax Refunds Payable	190,630	0	0	190,630
Bond Anticipation Notes payable	0	0	171,000	171,000
 Total liabilities	 716,358	 0	 171,000	 887,358
 <b><u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u></b>				
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	593,953	0	0	593,953
Unavailable revenue - other	0	524,674	0	524,674
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	593,953	524,674	0	1,118,627
 <b><u>Fund Balances</u></b>				
Restricted	0	1,841,720	317,582	2,159,302
Committed	682,913	0	36,239	719,152
Assigned	155,697	0	0	155,697
Unassigned	2,011,756	0	0	2,011,756
 Total fund balances	 2,850,366	 1,841,720	 353,821	 5,045,907
 Total liabilities, deferred inflows of Resources and fund balances	 <u>\$4,160,677</u>	 <u>\$2,366,394</u>	 <u>\$524,821</u>	 <u>\$7,051,892</u>

**Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District**

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Government Funds

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Ambulance Fund</u>	<u>Non-major Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Property taxes	14,034,299	-	-	14,034,299
Departmental and other revenue	4,171	1,663,454	-	1,667,625
Licenses and permits	21,691	-	-	21,691
Intergovernmental	297,774	-	10,538	308,312
Investment income	78,300	-	454	78,754
Other	<u>54,407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,815</u>	<u>89,222</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>14,490,642</u>	<u>1,663,454</u>	<u>45,807</u>	<u>16,199,903</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
Current:				
Prudential Operations	5,628,148	-	-	5,628,148
Fire Operations	8,985,177	-	171,122	9,156,299
Debt Service	1,245	-	-	1,245
Information Systems	<u>221,868</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>221,868</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>14,836,438</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>171,122</u>	<u>15,007,560</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of</b>				
<b>revenues over expenditures</b>	<u>(345,796)</u>	<u>1,663,454</u>	<u>(125,315)</u>	<u>1,192,343</u>
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>				
Operating transfers in	1,507,852	-	200,000	1,707,852
Operating transfers out	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>(1,506,127)</u>	<u>(1,725)</u>	<u>(1,707,852)</u>
<b>Total other financing sources (uses)</b>	<u>1,307,852</u>	<u>(1,506,127)</u>	<u>198,275</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net change in fund balances</b>	962,056	157,327	72,960	1,192,343
Fund balances, Beginning	<u>1,888,310</u>	<u>1,684,393</u>	<u>280,861</u>	<u>3,853,564</u>
Fund balances, Ending	<u>\$ 2,850,366</u>	<u>\$1,841,720</u>	<u>\$353,821</u>	<u>\$5,045,907</u>



**CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT**

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2023

**Note D. Capital Assets**

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023 was as follows:

	<b><u>Beginning Balances</u></b>	<b><u>Additions</u></b>	<b><u>Reductions</u></b>	<b><u>Ending Balances</u></b>
<b><u>Governmental activities</u></b>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$384,746	-	-	\$384,746
Construction in progress	-	96,050	-	96,050
Total capital assets not being depreciated	384,746	96,050	-	480,796
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	11,282,358	-	-	11,282,358
Equipment, machinery and vehicles	1,206,189			1,206,189
Vehicles	5,569,042	38,580	-	5,607,622
Total capital assets being depreciated	18,057,589	38,580	-	18,096,169
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(6,142,681)	(282,071)	-	(6,424,752)
Equipment, machinery, and vehicles	(787,321)	(65,995)		(853,316)
Vehicles	(4,622,345)	(188,995)	-	(4,811,340)
Total accumulated depreciation	(11,552,347)	(537,061)	-	(12,089,408)
Capital assets being depreciated, net	6,505,242	(498,481)	-	6,006,761
Total governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$6,889,988</u>	<u>\$(402,431)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$6,487,557</u>
<b><u>Business-type activities -water</u></b>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land and land improvements	\$3,438,497	-	-	\$3,438,497
Construction in Progress	1,899,475	84,915	(52,812)	1,931,578
Total capital assets not being depreciated	5,337,972	84,915	(52,812)	5,370,075
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	1,420,049	52,812	-	1,472,861
Infrastructure	25,485,299	1,218,888	-	26,704,187
Machinery and equipment	527,895			527,895
Vehicles and equipment	419,562	105,504	(24,646)	500,420
Total capital assets being depreciated	27,852,805	1,377,204	(24,646)	29,205,363
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(968,971)	(36,552)	-	(1,005,523)
Machinery and equipment	(505,949)	(15,146)	-	(521,095)
Vehicles and equipment	(380,008)	(33,172)	24,646	(388,534)
Infrastructure	(15,072,742)	(444,368)	-	(15,517,110)
Total accumulated depreciation	(16,927,670)	(529,238)	24,646	(17,432,262)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	10,925,135	847,966	-	11,773,101
Water capital assets, net	<u>\$16,263,107</u>	<u>\$932,881</u>	<u>\$(52,812)</u>	<u>\$17,143,176</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions as follows:

Governmental Activities:

Business-Type Activities:

<b>Fire Operations</b>	<b><u>\$537,061</u></b>	<b>Water Operations</b>	<b><u>\$529,238</u></b>
<b>Total Government Activities</b>	<b><u>\$537,061</u></b>	<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<b><u>\$529,238</u></b>

**Long-term debt**

The annual requirements to amortize all general obligation bonds and loans outstanding as of June 30, 2023, including interest, are as follows:

<b>Year Ending June 30</b>	<b><u>Governmental Activities</u></b>			<b><u>Business-type Activities</u></b>		
	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Total</b>
2024	0	0	0	124,481	20,127	144,608
2025	0	0	0	126,977	17,612	144,589
2026	0	0	0	129,523	15,047	144,570
2027	0	0	0	132,119	12,431	144,550
2028	0	0	0	134,767	9,762	144,529
2029-2031	0	0	0	420,729	12,733	433,462
Totals	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,068,596</u>	<u>\$87,712</u>	<u>\$1,156,308</u>

## **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

Mark Macallister, Fire Commissioner  
Edward Riley, Fire Commissioner  
Doug Brown, Fire Commissioner

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL**

Michael Winn, Chief (E) 2013  
Byron Eldridge, Deputy Chief (E) 1985  
Sandra Mackey, Administration 2012  
Natalia Kennedy, Administration 2021  
Nicola Stacy, Administration 2024  
Richard Randall, Mechanic 2022  
Joe Desrosiers, Custodian 2016  
Pastor Judson Adams, Fire Chaplin

## **PERMANENT FIREFIGHTERS**

Adams, Christopher Capt. (E) 1999	McGonigle, John (P) 2014
Aiguier, Brenden (E) 2020	Medeiros, Justin (E) 2020
Anderson, Richard (P) 2014	Miskiv, George Lt. (E) 2000
Carney, Michael Lt (P) 2022	Morrison, Brian Cpt. (E) 2000
Carpenter, Daniel Lt (P) 1999	Mosher, Jessica (P) 2023
Coombs, Steven (P) 2013	Mullin, Scott (P) 2013
Corey, Abigale (E) 2023	Murphy, Odane (P) 2023
Cox, Patrick (P) 2015	O'Donnell, Anthony (E) 2020
Davern, Jason Lt. EMSO (P) 1999	Osgood, Daniel Lt. (E) 2000
DeGraan, Thomas (P) 2005	Perry, Michael (P) 2015
DePippo, Matthew (P) 2021	Riley, Charles (E) 2007
DiPilato, Ryan (P) 2021	Rogers, Christopher Lt. (E) 2009
English, John (P) 2014	Rogers, Michael Lt. (E) 2005
Ferola, David (P) 1999	Sabatinelli, Eric Capt. (A) 1999
Gelinas, David (E) 2005	Sahl, Richard (E) 2001
Goodearl, Thomas Capt. (P) 1998	Sassone, Louis Lt. (P) 2004
Green, John (E) 2021	Scott, Ryan Lt. (P) 2017
Hammond, Zachery (E) 2020	Silva, Robert (P) 2020
Hill, Patrick Lt. FPO (E) 2007	Smith, Bradley Lt. (P) 2011
Hunter, Zachary Lt. (P) 2010	Sparrow, Paul (P) 2022
Karter, Seth (P) 2021	Stacy, Benjamin (E) 2020
Koretski, Christopher (E) 2020	Swartz, Eric (P) 2020
Laffey, Tucker (A) 2020	Travers, Adam (P) 2015
Lehane, Shawn FPO (E) 1999	Travis, Jason (P) 2014
Malone, Matthew Lt. (P) 2010	Tuohy-Bedford, Jack (P) 2023
	White, Casey (E) 2023

## **DISPATCHERS**

Brouillette, Amy (EMD) 2016	Perkins, Julie (EMD) 2021
Monroe, William (EMD) (E) 2000	Pierce, Richard (EMD) 2011
Jeffrey Gifford (PTD) 2016	Matthew Mills (PTD) 2023

(E) Emergency Medical Technician, (A) Advanced, (P) Paramedic, (EMD) Emergency Medical Dispatcher, (PTD) Part-time Dispatcher



## Chief's Message:

On behalf of the Fire Commissioners and the dedicated women and men of the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills (C-O-MM) Fire District, I thank you all for your continued support. This Annual Report reflects the efforts and accomplishments of the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Department in providing quality, timely, and professional emergency services to those who live in, work in, and visit our three villages.

This annual report will highlight statistics related to call response and will acknowledge the accomplishments and events that shape us as an organization. This report also serves as a tool used for evaluating and supporting decisions that enhance the department's mission of serving our villages and guide us in ways we can better assist with risk reduction.

My writing of this annual report is bittersweet, as it will be my last. I am retiring as your fire chief this June 28, 2024, after 11 years of service to C-O-MM and 33 total years of service to the fire service of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as your fire chief.

It is my hope that you will find the following brief descriptions of the services provided by C-O-MM of interest. Our mission statement drives us ***"To provide the finest possible fire, rescue and emergency medical services, whether routine or emergent, to all that reside in, work in or visit the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District."*** I thank you for both that privilege and opportunity.

### **Operations**

Established in 1926, the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Department provides services to the citizens who live in, work in, and visit our three villages. The C-O-MM Fire Department provides all hazard responses including emergency medical services, fire suppression, water, and dive rescue.

When our residents find themselves in a challenging circumstance, your C-O-MM Fire Department stands ready to respond, remaining one of the few entities that still makes house calls.

The daily operations of the C-O-MM fire department during calendar year 2023 involved 5422 emergency responses of which 3521 were requests for emergency medical services and 1901 were requests for fire services: a daily average of almost 15 emergency calls!

### **Dispatch**

C-O-MM Dispatch has had one of its busiest years on record having dispatched 5422 calls for emergency service, breaking 5000 emergency responses for service for only the fourth time in our district history.

2023:	5422
2022:	5134
2021:	5047
2020:	4619
2019:	5053

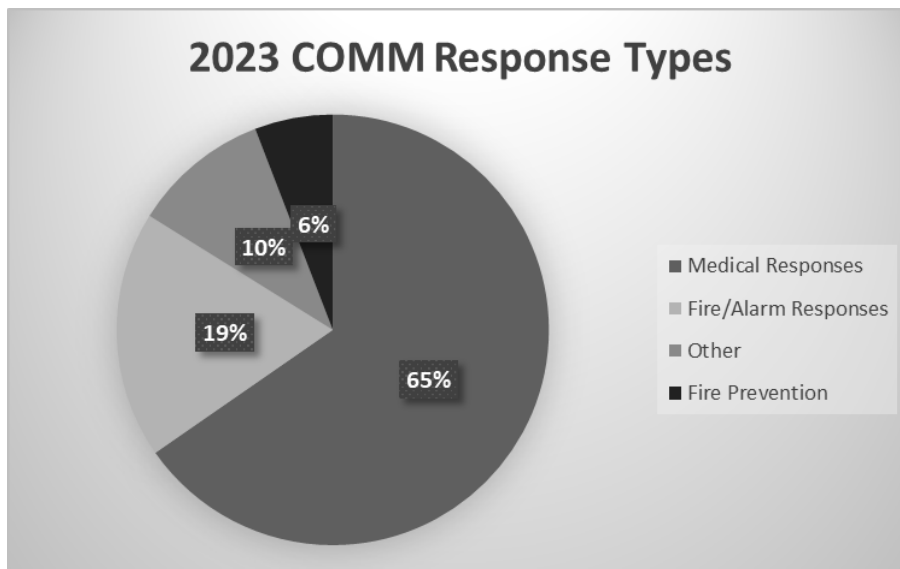
C-O-MM also provides dispatch services for the Cotuit Fire District, handling 1021 calls in 2023, which is also a new record of emergency responses for the Cotuit Fire Department.

Historically, the department's call volume has increased by about 1000 runs every ten years:

1973:	814
1983:	1749
1993:	2347
2003:	3519
2013:	4412
2023:	5422

Of the 5422 District calls handled by C-O-MM personnel and apparatus during 2023.

- 65%- EMS responses.
- 19%- Fire responses
- 10%- investigations/service/marine and other miscellaneous responses
- 6%- Fire prevention/senior safe/community risk reduction.



Of the 5422 calls handled by C-O-MM personnel and apparatus in 2023, 3521 were Emergency Medical Service related, with the remaining 1901 emergency responses for fire, fire related, and public service-related events.

The Dispatch Center monitors all buildings and entrances via video and serves as a public access point for all those doing business with the district.

The Dispatch Center is staffed 24/7 by four full-time Dispatchers, all certified as Telecommunicators and Emergency Medical Dispatchers by the Association of Public Communications Officials (APCO). In addition, there are 2 part-time dispatchers and 2 full-time firefighters trained and available to function as dispatchers.

The Open Burning Program for district residents, January 15<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> by state law, is monitored by our Dispatch Center. Each day during the season a posting is made to the Department web site stating whether open burning is allowed, according to the conditions. That message is also available as a recording on the “Burning Line” which is 508-771-2089 or 508-771-2471. Daily burning status and information about other outside fires is always available on the district website. [www.commfiredistrict.com](http://www.commfiredistrict.com)

### **Emergency Medical Services**

The Department’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) mission continues to serve the residents and visitors of the district with the highest degree of skill and professionalism.

C-O-MM Fire currently operates with twenty-four (22) EMT-Basic, two (2) EMT/Advanced and twenty-seven (29) EMT-Paramedics who respond out of our 3 fire stations utilizing four International/Horton Class 1 ambulances and one Advanced Life Support equipped fire engine.

The department currently has two new Advanced Life Support ambulances on order to replace two of our older units that are currently in service. Unfortunately, the ambulance chassis have been on prolonged backorder. The department anticipates taking delivery of both ambulances by March of 2025.

2023 saw 3,521 requested responses to and for emergency medical services. This is a decrease from last year. The average response time, from notification to arrival on scene, **is 5 minutes or less.**

C-O-MM Paramedics and EMTs continuously train to maintain excellence in treatment and the highest standard of care.

The Department has an aggressive Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance program in place. We welcome all feedback regarding your experience and interaction with our service. Feel free to contact the C-O-MM EMS Officer, Lieutenant Jason Davern at: [JDavern@commfiredistrict.com](mailto:JDavern@commfiredistrict.com) with any questions.

### **Fire Prevention**

Our Fire Prevention Division focuses on the 3-Es of Fire Prevention: Education, Enforcement and Engineering. We conduct annual business inspections of all commercial properties throughout the district, as well as residential resale/transfer of properties in accordance with M.G.L. c148 § 26F. We work in conjunction with the Town of Barnstable Building Department providing permits for specific job-related tasks. We also provide early education for our elementary school students, as well as a robust “Senior Safe” program for our more senior residents.

In 2023 our Fire Prevention Division also launched the department’s first “Community Risk Reduction” campaign in hopes of providing preventative education to our community. Our focus

is our two most vulnerable populations: elders and children. This program consists of 12 department members performing such tasks as “Senior Safe” home visits, educational opportunities in schools and daycares, as well as fire safety presentations throughout the community. Our goals for 2024 will be to incorporate additional resources such as car seat installation and CPR/AED instructional classes.

### **Fire Prevention**

In 2023, our Fire Prevention Division saw a slight decrease in the number of inspections from the previous year. The most common types of inspections were resale/transfer of existing homes, as well as new construction, additions, and renovations. The housing market remained unpredictable throughout the year. Rising home costs and higher interest rates lead way to a decrease in inspections of these homes and the inspections were down -36% from the previous year. Fire alarm permitting for new homes, additions and renovations was also down -7%. Commercial construction was steady in 2023 but continues to be a small amount of the overall construction within the district. The commercial projects in the district continue to be tear-down, rebuild, or renovations due to the limited amount of commercially zoned open land available. Business inspections also accounted for a large part of our inspection totals, along with larger scale events such as “Best Buddies” at Craigville Beach, village strolls & events, firework displays, road races & triathlon, and large-scale private functions.

Total inspections/events in 2023	1854 (-2.4% from 2022)
Total permits issued in 2023	725 (-19% from 2022)

### **Senior Safe/Community Risk Reduction Program**

2023 marked another successful year of “Senior Safe” program within our community. The program provides home safety visits for any district resident 65 years or older. The program consists of testing life safety devices, installing smoke and CO protection, changing batteries, installing lockboxes, and many other life safety and preventive measures. Each year our department receives grant funding from the state to help support the program, with funds originating from the state’s tobacco tax. C-O-MM Fire funds the remainder of the program. C-O-MM Fire continues to receive tremendous feedback regarding the program and if you or a loved one may be interested, please contact our Fire Prevention Office at (508) 790-2375 ext. 1, or email [fireprevention@commfiredistrict.com](mailto:fireprevention@commfiredistrict.com).

### **Senior Safe Totals for 2023**

Number of seniors reached:	371
Number of home visits:	240
Number of smoke alarms installed:	32
Number of carbon monoxide alarms:	46
Number of lock boxes	30
Number of house numbers installed:	6
Number of batteries replaced:	1366

### **Educational Programs**

Our Jr. Firefighter Program consists of monthly visits to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at both Centerville and West Villages Elementary. The program runs the entirety of the school year with a range of topics such as smoke and CO alarms, exit drills in the home (EDITH), ice and freezing weather emergencies, and a “Touch-a-Truck” presentation. More importantly, it serves as an early introduction to the fire service and allows us to interact with these children at a young, impressionable age. We also visit all area daycare and preschool facilities at the beginning of



each school year for a “Touch-a-Truck” presentation along with a “Firefighter Storytime” where a firefighting themed book is read to the children.

A good deal of the work in the fire service lies in prevention and education. As we move into a new year our focus remains on customer service, as well as providing preventive education to those in need. At C-O-MM Fire we value the relationships we share with the members of the public and we are always willing to assist in any way. For inquiries pertaining to fire prevention or general fire safety, please contact our Fire Prevention office during normal business hours Monday-Thursday 0800-1630, Friday 0800-1600 or visit us at [www.commfiredistrict.com](http://www.commfiredistrict.com).

### **DIVE Team**

Established in 1986, the C-O-MM FD Underwater Search and Recovery team is the oldest continually operating public safety dive unit in Barnstable County. The Team is comprised of 14 department members: nine diver/tenders, and five trained specifically as support tenders. The Team trains twelve months per year in all types of weather conditions, including sub-ice, at various water bodies within the district and surrounding region.

The Team utilizes fully encapsulated diving systems including full facemasks and dry suits, to protect from cold exposure and hazardous materials and is activated for all reports of missing swimmers, persons through the ice, and boating accidents with reports of persons in the water. It has made many victim recoveries from drownings due to swimming and boating casualties, jumping accidents, and sunken vessel entrapment.

#### **Divers:**

1. CPT C. Adams, Co-Team Leader/Divemaster
2. CPT B. Morrison, Co-Team Leader/Divemaster
3. LT J. McGonigle
4. LT M. Miskiv
5. LT L. Sassone
6. FF P. Cox
7. FF M. DePippo
8. FF R. DiPilato
9. FF Z. Hammond

#### **Tenders:**

1. FF T. DeGraan
2. FF S. Karter
3. FF P. Sparrow
4. FF E. Swartz
5. FF J. Tuohy-Bedford

### **Training**

C-O-MM Fire continues a robust training program to meet the department’s Mission Statement: *“To provide the finest possible fire, rescue and emergency medical services, whether routine or emergent, to all that reside in, work in or visit the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District.”*

Training and continuing education is vital to C-O-MM Fire as training is the single most important element for a safe, professional, and effective fire department. It is imperative that all

members are properly trained in all aspects of firefighting to help safeguard his/her life, the lives of other firefighters, and the lives of those we serve.

Each month, following a master training calendar, training is assigned for each of the firefighters and officers to complete while on-duty at their fire station. Examples of trainings include building/school walk-throughs, area familiarization, driver training/roadway safety, extrication/specialized rescue, cancer awareness, pump operations, ladders, policies and procedures, monthly EMS training, water rescue, marine operations, brush, and urban interface training.

The department also adheres to mandated Federal and State regulations to provide training on SCBA/N95 mask fit testing, firefighter safety, health and survival, hearing protection, heat illness prevention, hazmat recognition and identification, and respiratory protection. This training does not include the hours of emergency medical, communicable disease, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training which is overseen by the department's EMS officer.

All new hires at C-O-MM Fire undergo an intense, two-week, Monday-Friday (84 hour) orientation training. The purpose of this training is to prepare new hires, prior to being assigned to one of the four (4) shifts, by introducing them to the policies, procedures, equipment, and apparatus at C-O-MM Fire/Rescue. The entire department assists with this effort.

### **2023 Training Hours**

January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023

# of Members Reporting: 53

Total Hours of Training Completed: 4,504:30

*(The above numbers include firefighters and officers)*

### **Personnel**

This past year C-O-MM Fire had two (2) members retire after decades of service to our community.

Lieutenant Gordon Williams, June 1994-September 2023

Fire Chief Michael J. Winn, June 2013-June 2024

Together these members had over **62** years of combined service to the fire service of Massachusetts.

To replace our retired officers, the following members were promoted:

Lieutenant John McGonigle, September 2023

Chief of Department Byron Eldridge, June 2024

Deputy Chief - TBD

To replace our members who retired LAST fiscal year, the following personnel were hired:

Firefighter/Paramedic Jessica Mosher

Firefighter/EMT Abigail Corey

Firefighter/EMT Casey White

We are so pleased these new members have joined our C-O-MM family.

### **Grants/Reimbursements**

#### **Ambulance Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) Program**

The Ambulance Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) Program offers ambulance providers the opportunity to receive additional Medicaid reimbursement up to the eligible cost of services as

delivered to MassHealth members. This program works in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). C-O-MM Fire has been participating in this program since 2014. For Fiscal Year 2024 C-O-MM Fire applied for and has received tentative approval in the amount of **\$189,540.00**.

C-O-MM Fire will continue to apply for this program as the funding remains available.

#### **SAFE & Senior SAFE Grant (Community Risk Reduction)**

In November of 2023, Lt. Patrick Hill applied for the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) Grant. The grant process is very competitive and specific criteria must be met to qualify. Thanks to Lt. Hill's thorough hard work and attention to detail, we are proud to announce that C-O-MM Fire was awarded \$6,658.00 in grant funding towards our SAFE and Senior SAFE programs. These funds, which were distributed amongst 266 departments, will aid in the early education of our youth along with assisting and educating our elderly population as part of our community risk reduction plan.

#### **Department of Fire Services – (Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant)**

C-O-MM Fire District, through the hard work of Captain Eric Sabatinelli, has received **\$18,838.00** through the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant offered by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services. The grant, awarded in December 2023, was part of \$5 million in grant money offered to fire departments across Massachusetts.

The equipment purchased will include rescue stabilization struts, emergency evacuation sleds, ropes, anchors, harnesses, pulleys, and anchor plates to have operational capability at a trench or technical rescue emergency. Due to extensive infrastructure projects in our response area, it is important we increase our readiness to respond to emergencies involving technical and trench rescue. The purchase of this equipment will help the department attain compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards.

### **Closing**

In closing, we hope that you find the information above insightful, and we thank you for your continuing support. As your fire chief, I cannot be prouder of the hard work and dedication offered by each member of C-O-MM Fire than I am. Throughout my 11 years of service to the department and community I have been continually amazed by our responders who, despite facing extreme challenges, continue to perform at the highest level possible.

It has been my honor to be your fire chief and I thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Winn  
Chief of Department

Mark Macallister  
Fire Commissioner Chairman

Edward Riley  
Fire Commissioner

Doug Brown  
Fire Commissioner/Secretary

**CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
PO BOX 369 – 1138 MAIN STREET  
OSTERVILLE, MA 02655  
WWW.COMMWATER.COM**

**OFFICE OF  
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
WATER SUPERINTENDENT  
Tel 508-428-6691  
FAX 508-428-3508**

Scott E. Crosby, Chairman  
Peter Hansen, Vice Chairman  
Kevin Medeiros, Clerk

**2023-2024 PERSONNEL**

Craig A. Crocker, Superintendent (1992)\*  
Glenn E. Snell, Assistant Superintendent (2013)\*  
Samuel A. Nickerson (1990)\*  
Kevin J. Ferguson (1994)\*  
Roger P. Raymond (1998)\*  
T. Chatham Fawkes (2001)\*  
Matt Pistone (2002)\*  
Beth Flick (2004)  
Timothy Picard (2005)\*  
Serena Chase (2016)  
Brian Paradise (2018)\*  
Elizabeth Sousa (2024)  
Michael Ramsay (2024)

\* State Certified Drinking Water Operators



## **CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Water Commissioners would like to thank the voters of our District for your continued support in our endeavor to supply the best quality of drinking water possible. We ask that you continue your conservation efforts. They are crucial to protect our future resources and to control the current cost of water. Also, the MASS DEP is proposing to cut our permitted withdrawal amount thus effectively forcing us to impose mandatory restrictions and to possibly restrict new connections. For information and materials on conserving water contact our office at 428-6691 or visit our web site ([www.commwater.com](http://www.commwater.com)).

The goal of the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Water Department is to contribute to the well-being of our community by supplying affordable high-quality drinking water. We pledge to be a model Water Department providing the best service possible. We strive for excellence through education and communication with our community and within our organization.

### **Public Relations**

The Department mailed out the annual Water Quality Report along with the January 2024 water bills. The report contains information on the safety and quality of water for the year 2023. Please visit our web site ([www.commwater.com](http://www.commwater.com)) for links to information such as the emerging PFAS-6 issue. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call, write or email the office.

Again, for 2025, we ask for your Voluntary Conservation efforts to control the cost of water, to protect the environment and to avoid mandatory water restrictions.

- Please avoid all outside water use between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
- Residents with automatic irrigation systems residing in homes on the EVEN numbered sides of streets are asked to water lawns and gardens on MON & WED only. Residents residing on ODD numbered sides of streets are requested to water lawns and gardens on TUES & THUR only.
- Water only when necessary. Please be aware of the advance weather forecast. If wind and rain is in the forecast, make adjustments to your watering schedule to minimize water consumption.
- Maintain your lawn at a height of at least two (2) inches. This practice will protect roots and retain soil moisture.
- Install rain sensor shutoff devices/ smart controllers on automatic irrigation systems.

Water Conservation kits are available at no charge upon request. Use water wisely!

### **Budget & Water rates**

The water rates can be found at [www.commwater.com](http://www.commwater.com). We rely on revenue derived from water rates and fees to operate and fund capital improvements. This policy demands that we make every effort to operate efficiently. Our FY2025 budget reflects increased Department efficiency while continuing with the upkeep of necessary infrastructure improvements and preparing for the future. The budget has prioritized spending in all areas of operations. The

FY2025 operation & maintenance budget has increased 2.5% due mainly to the anticipated increase (contract negotiating year) in labor costs. *However, given the current inflationary pressures and future capital projects, we will be implementing modest water rate increases later this year to ensure revenues will support operations in the future. We will be discussing these changes at upcoming monthly meetings.*

### **Pump Stations and Equipment**

In 2023 we recorded withdrawals over one billion gallons for the year. The equipment performed well with no major problems. In fact, the equipment is in excellent condition due to regular maintenance and scheduled replacement. The Annual well cleaning and performance testing has allowed us to identify pumping equipment that is not operating efficiently and correct any problems. We plan to have the new well #23 at the Hayden wellfield active for this season. The proposed water treatment plant (WTP) at the Hayden wellfield was approved by DEP. We are selecting a design/engineer to assist with the design/plan for the facility. This process will take 2-3 years with an estimated construction start date of 2027. The new integrated financial and utilities management software and services now allow for electronic payments. Work continues with our consultants to install PFAS treatment as necessary.

### **Distribution System Expansion & Improvements**

Our consumption breakdown is 86% residential, 4% commercial, 6% municipal, and 4% unaccounted. We are pleased to report that the water supply system received a Class 1 rating (highest) from Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO) from the last conducted Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey. Most insurers use the PPC classifications for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial, and industrial properties.

In an effort to make public water supply available, and to enhance fire protection to all residents of the District, the Board of Water Commissioners will continue to install water mains for existing streets and subdivisions that file a petition and meet the requirements. The Board aims to simplify the procedure and facilitate connections to the water system for these residents. To date, public water supply has been made available to over six hundred residential lots over the past thirteen years.

System improvements have been focused on the streets that the Town has scheduled for reconstruction and sewer installation. We have attempted to coordinate the necessary upgrades prior to this paving. The Vineyard Wind 1 project replaced over eight thousand feet of older watermains at no cost to the ratepayers. The funds requested for FY25 will allow us to add/replace necessary piping to continue with our system improvement plan.

### **Cross- Connection Program**

The Department will continue the cross-connection program by re-surveying and testing all necessary facilities. A cross-connection occurs whenever a potable drinking water line is directly or indirectly connected to a nonpotable (fire service, irrigation system, cooling systems, boilers, etc.) piece of equipment or piping. An unprotected or inadequately protected cross-connection on your premises could contaminate the drinking water in your dwelling, and in neighboring dwellings. The most common potential cross-connection is the garden hose. The Department installs a check valve with all new residential hookups & provides hose bib vacuum breakers to prevent back siphonage. Throughout the District there are 175 testable backflow prevention devices installed in commercial buildings, schools, apartment complexes and other necessary buildings.

### **Control your costs: home leak detection**

It is important for residents to implement a periodic leak-detection survey in their own homes. Most homes have a low-flow indicator on their water meters, which is a small red diamond-shaped dial on the head of the meter. Turn off all water fixtures and look at the red dial. If the dial is moving, there is a leak in your home. In most cases the leak is a result of a toilet leak, which over time can add up. The purchase of a moisture sensor on automatic irrigation systems is also a good water saving idea. Residents need to learn as much as possible about how to consciously conserve water and how to make these changes become part of a regular routine. Contact the Department for assistance and free conservation kits or check out our website. ***Please conserve and use water wisely!***

### **Water Quality Sampling**

The Department samples monthly for coliform bacteria throughout the system. The Department also samples for over 98 regulated and unregulated substances throughout the year. Laboratories certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts analyze all samples. Sample results are sent to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for analysis. Please refer to the table of your water quality report to see what is in your drinking water.

### **Training**

Distribution operators are certified by the Massachusetts Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities. The maintenance of these licenses requires training contact hours. Training classes are scheduled through various associations and provide our staff with “hands-on” training from customer service to safety. We would like to congratulate all staff members that continue their professional development.

In addition to thanking District customers, the Board of Water Commissioners extends our thanks and appreciation to our dedicated employees, the Prudential Committee, the Fire Department, the Clerk/Treasurer’s office and the various Town of Barnstable agencies for their welcome assistance and cooperation throughout the year. We are proud of the staff and management of the Department and are confident that consumers will continue to receive the best service we can provide.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Scott E. Crosby, Chairman

Peter Hansen, Vice Chairman

Kevin Medeiros, Clerk



**CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS WATER DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL STATISTICS**

**2023 ANNUAL PUMPAGE**

January	40,293,000
February	38,236,000
March	40,896,000
April	52,218,000
May	131,756,000
June	155,359,000
July	179,887,000
August	169,463,000
September	127,848,000
October	76,358,000
November	41,942,000
December	41,562,000

**2022 TOTAL    1,095,818,000 GALLONS**

**FACTS ABOUT YOUR SYSTEM**

Maximum Day: August 6, 2023 – 8,414,000 Gallons

Maximum Week: July 31, 2023 – August 7, 2023 – 50,395,000 Gallons

23 – New Services installed in 2023

12,294 – Service connections

149 – Services repaired/replaced in 2023

**1.26 Miles of new & replaced water main installed in 2023**

253.04 – Total miles of water mains

2,027 – Hydrants in service

2 – Hydrants repaired in 2023/ 15 Hydrants replaced

3,786 – Work orders issued

662 – Acres of watershed property

32 – Buildings

3 – Storage tanks

19 – Ground water sources



**Please visit [www.commwater.com](http://www.commwater.com) or call  
508-428-6691 to obtain a copy of the  
Water Quality Report.**

**FY2025**

**Proposed Budgets**

**And**

**Articles\***

*\*explanations are for informational purposes only*

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT							
PRUDENTIAL OPERATION BUDGET							
			Appropriated	Appropriated	Proposed	AMT OF INC.	% INC
			FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	OR (DEC)	OR DEC
<b>SALARIES (52 Week Pay Year):</b>							
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE			11,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	0.00%
CLERK/TREASURER			82,680.00	88,432.00	105,560.00	17,128.00	16.23%
ASST. CLERK/TREASURER			57,844.80	62,906.00	61,360.00	(1,546.00)	-2.52%
		TOTAL	140,524.80	151,338.00	166,920.00	15,582.00	9.34%
ACCOUNTANT/CONSULTANT			9,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
LONGEVITY PAY/SICK BUYBACK-RETIREMENT			1,531.11	0.00	1,160.00	1,160.00	100.00%
PART-TIME			3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
OVERTIME (Office Staff)			2,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
TAX COLLECTOR			2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%
MODERATOR			300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%
		Subtotal District Salaries	169,855.91	169,638.00	186,380.00	16,742.00	8.98%
<b>DISTRICT EXPENDITURES:</b>							
GROUP INSURANCE			3,218,330.00	3,295,478.00	3,477,232.00	181,754.00	5.23%
	BC/BS		2,772,785.00	2,854,489.00	3,032,344.00	177,855.00	5.87%
	MEDEX		176,200.00	174,550.00	175,085.00	535.00	0.31%
	DENTAL		127,000.00	126,200.00	124,406.00	(1,794.00)	-1.44%
	LIFE		2,575.00	2,550.00	2,568.00	18.00	0.70%
	MEDICARE		133,370.00	131,675.00	136,815.00	5,140.00	3.76%
	SOCIAL SECURITY		6,400.00	6,014.00	6,014.00	0.00	0.00%
RETIREMENT ASSESSMENT			1,727,957.00	1,869,950.00	1,841,109.00	(28,841.00)	-1.57%
INSURANCE			374,630.00	387,985.00	438,000.00	50,015.00	11.42%
FINANCIAL ADVISOR/BANKING			5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%
PRINTING & ADVERTISING			12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	0.00%
STREETLIGHTS			50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00%
		Subtotal District Expenditures	5,387,917.00	5,620,413.00	5,823,341.00	202,928.00	3.48%
CONTINGENCY FUND			60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00%
EDUCATION & PROF. DUES			6,000.00	6,000.00	7,500.00	1,500.00	20.00%
PROFESSIONAL FEES			60,000.00	62,500.00	65,000.00	2,500.00	3.85%
TELEPHONE (Local, Long Dist & Computer T-1 )			2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
OFFICE SUPPLIES			5,000.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00	0.00%
OFFICE EQUIPMENT & SERVICES			4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00%
		Subtotal Office Expenses	137,000.00	140,000.00	144,000.00	4,000.00	2.78%
<b>PRUDENTIAL/TREASURER OFFICE EXPENSES:</b>			5,835,297.71	6,081,389.00	6,153,721.00	72,332.00	1.18%

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT							
INFORMATION SYSTEM BUDGET							
			Appropriated	Appropriated	Proposed	AMT OF INC.	% INC
			FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	OR (DEC)	OR DEC
<b>SALARIES</b>							
I.T. DIRECTOR			56,000.00	56,000.00	56,000.00	0.00	0.00%
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
COMPUTER SYSTEMS - IT SUPPORT SERVICES			93,000.00	96,000.00	98,400.00	2,400.00	2.44%
COMPUTER SYSTEMS - INTERNET SERVICE			7,000.00	5,000.00	5,500.00	500.00	9.09%
COMPUTER SYSTEM - SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE			52,000.00	50,000.00	53,500.00	3,500.00	6.54%
SOFTWARE LICENSES (SUBSCRIPTIONS)			4,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00%
LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL			10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00%
SUPPLIES			1,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%
TELEPHONE SYSTEM SERVICE			4,000.00	4,400.00	4,400.00	0.00	0.00%
COMPUTER SYSTEM - EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE (Hardware)			18,400.00	18,400.00	18,400.00	0.00	0.00%
<b>INFORMATION SYSTEMS BUDGET TOTALS</b>			<b>245,400.00</b>	<b>249,300.00</b>	<b>255,700.00</b>	<b>6,400.00</b>	<b>2.50%</b>

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT							
FIRE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION BUDGET							
			Appropriated FY 2023	Appropriated FY2024	Proposed FY2025	AMT OF INC. OR (DEC)	% INC OR DEC
APPARATUS & REPAIR							
A.	Personnel & Training		82,100.00	86,931.25	92,831.25	5,900.00	6.36%
B.	Vehicle Repair & Maint		175,300.00	198,200.00	213,300.00	15,100.00	7.08%
C.	Firefighter Equipment		137,000.00	139,000.00	143,000.00	4,000.00	2.80%
D.	EMT Equipment		149,050.00	149,050.00	158,250.00	9,200.00	5.81%
E.	Fire Prevention		27,700.00	28,900.00	33,200.00	4,300.00	12.95%
	<b>TOTAL APPARATUS &amp; REPAIR</b>		571,150.00	602,081.25	640,581.25	38,500.00	6.01%
BUILDING & UPKEEP							
A.	Station & Office Supplies		21,800.00	21,800.00	21,800.00	0.00	0.00%
B.	Bldg Services & Contracts		37,300.00	41,500.00	46,600.00	5,100.00	10.94%
C.	Bldg & Grounds Supplies		68,500.00	73,000.00	75,000.00	2,000.00	2.67%
	<b>TOTAL BUILDING &amp; UPKEEP</b>		127,600.00	136,300.00	143,400.00	7,100.00	4.95%
NATURAL GAS, PROPANE, #2 OIL			63,140.00	69,454.00	69,454.00	0.00	0.00%
ELECTRICITY			69,960.00	76,956.00	76,956.00	0.00	0.00%
TELEPHONE & COMMUNICATIONS			34,000.00	34,000.00	34,000.00	0.00	0.00%
LEGAL SERVICES			25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00%
AMBULANCE BILLING			52,000.00	52,000.00	52,000.00	0.00	0.00%
	<b>TOTAL OTHER DEPT EXPENSES</b>		244,100.00	257,410.00	257,410.00	0.00	0.00%
FIRE CHIEF			158,875.00	162,846.87	178,232.34	15,385.47	8.63%
DEPUTY CHIEF			133,250.00	136,581.25	146,968.75	10,387.50	7.07%
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL			174,500.00	178,400.00	205,878.80	27,478.80	13.35%
PERMANENT FIREFIGHTERS			5,395,059.95	5,275,000.00	5,223,456.90	(51,543.10)	-0.99%
DISPATCHERS			300,579.03	309,642.56	345,591.91	35,949.35	10.40%
PERMANENT FF CALLBK & OT			1,147,500.00	1,223,790.00	1,260,503.70	36,713.70	2.91%
DISPATCH/ADMIN SICK/VAC/OT			49,432.00	50,667.00	52,187.89	1,520.89	2.91%
HOLIDAY PAY (*Contract Change)			314,305.64	322,000.00	348,753.09	26,753.09	7.67%
FIRE COMMISSIONERS-(\$3000 per commissioner)			9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	0.00%
CUSTODIAN			60,501.60	60,501.60	63,211.00	2,709.40	4.29%
MECHANIC			113,152.80	77,760.00	85,696.00	7,936.00	9.26%
MECHANICAL SERVICES & O.T.			9,000.00	9,225.00	9,225.00	0.00	0.00%
TRAINING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT			31,000.00	31,000.00	31,000.00	0.00	0.00%
SICK BUYBACK			120,000.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	0.00	0.00%
UNIFORM-PERMANENT FF			58,500.00	58,500.00	58,500.00	0.00	0.00%
UNIFORM-DISPATCHERS			2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	0.00	0.00%
BURNING PERMIT (DISPATCH)			2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
TRANSITION/CONTINGENCY			0.00	0.00	496,548.15	496,548.15	100.00%
	<b>TOTAL SALARIES</b>		8,079,256.02	8,029,514.28	8,639,353.53	609,839.25	7.06%
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET TOTALS</b>			<b>9,022,106.02</b>	<b>9,025,305.53</b>	<b>9,680,744.78</b>	<b>655,439.25</b>	<b>6.77%</b>

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS WATER DEPARTMENT							
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION BUDGET							
Operation & Maintenance			Appropriated	Appropriated	Proposed	AMT OF INC.	% INC
			FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	OR (DEC)	OR DEC
CHEMICAL COSTS			325,000.00	327,000.00	327,000.00	0.00	0.00%
D.E.P. ASSESSMENT			13,053.00	10,510.00	11,610.00	1,100.00	9.47%
ELECTRICITY			324,000.00	342,000.00	342,000.00	0.00	0.00%
EQUIPMENT OPERATING EXPENSES			50,000.00	52,000.00	52,000.00	0.00	0.00%
GENERAL OPERATION			115,000.00	121,440.00	123,900.00	2,460.00	1.99%
NEW EQUIPMENT			1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
OFFICE SUPPLIES			50,000.00	52,000.00	52,000.00	0.00	0.00%
PUMP STATIONS			157,129.00	161,000.00	161,000.00	0.00	0.00%
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS			57,000.00	64,500.00	65,000.00	500.00	0.77%
TELEPHONE			12,000.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00	0.00%
WATER SYSTEM			122,000.00	123,975.00	123,975.00	0.00	0.00%
PROFESSIONAL FEES			10,000.00	11,000.00	12,000.00	1,000.00	8.33%
SALARIES							
SUPERINTENDENT			133,124.00	137,686.00	142,506.00	4,820.00	3.38%
ASST SUPERINTENDENT			106,000.00	107,025.00	110,772.00	3,747.00	3.38%
PUMP STATION OPERATOR			72,144.00	71,220.00	73,714.00	2,494.00	3.38%
WATER TECHNICIANS (6)			444,000.00	441,590.00	457,046.00	15,456.00	3.38%
OFFICE PERSONNEL (3)			156,764.00	155,820.00	161,274.00	5,454.00	3.38%
LONGEVITY & CONTINGENCY			25,206.00	25,206.00	41,207.00	16,001.00	38.83%
OVERTIME			93,080.00	93,028.00	99,996.00	6,968.00	6.97%
WATER COMMISSIONERS-\$3000 per commissioner			9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	0.00%
BUDGET TOTALS			2,276,000.00	2,320,000.00	2,380,000.00	60,000.00	2.52%
Prudential Costs, Group Health & Business Ins.			784,826.18	882,822.14	1,003,830.00	121,007.86	12.05%
TOTAL BUDGET			3,060,826.18	3,202,822.14	3,383,830.00	181,007.86	5.35%

[illegible]



**May 21, 2024**

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
AND  
ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

**Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District**

**Town of Barnstable**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**To the Clerk of the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District:**

**Greetings:**

You are hereby required and directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Barnstable residing within the territory comprising the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District, qualified to vote in the District elections and affairs, to meet on Monday, May 20, 2024, at the Centerville Fire Station, 1875 Falmouth Road, Route 28, Centerville, Massachusetts, where the polls shall be open at 8:00 a.m., and close at 7:00 p.m., and then and there to vote upon the following officers, to wit:

One Prudential Committee Member for three years  
One Water Commissioner for three years  
One Fire Commissioner for three years  
One Moderator for three years

And to meet on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the Centerville Fire Station, Centerville, Massachusetts, at 7:00 p.m., to act upon the following articles:

**ARTICLE #1.** To accept the Reports of the Prudential Committee, Information Systems, Fire Commissioners, and Water Commissioners as shown in the book.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee  
The Prudential Committee Recommends Acceptance**

**ARTICLE #2.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of **\$58.51** or some other sum for unpaid bills for the prior fiscal year.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:*** Invoices received after the close of the fiscal year for services rendered or goods received prior to July 1 are considered prior year bills. Per MGL Chapter 44 Section 64, prior year bills to be paid from the Town's general operating fund may only be paid by a vote of District Meeting.

**ARTICLE #3.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,149,890.99** or some other sum and transfer and appropriate from the income of the Water Department **\$1,003,830.01** or some other sum, for the ordinary operating expenses of the Prudential Committee for Fiscal Year 2025, to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee**  
**Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:** This article represents the budget of the Prudential Committee totaling \$6,153,721.00, as shown in the Book on page 33.*

**ARTICLE #4.** To see if the District will vote to appropriate from the income of the Water Department the sum of **\$2,380,000.00**, or some other amount for the ordinary operating expenses of the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2025, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Water Commissioners**  
**Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:** This article represents the budget of the Board of Water Commissioners totaling \$2,380,000.00 as shown in the Book on pages 36-37.*

**ARTICLE #5.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$8,110,285.16**, or some other amount and transfer and appropriate from the income of the Ambulance Account the sum of **\$1,570,459.62** or some other amount for the ordinary operating expenses of the Fire Department for Fiscal Year 2025, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:** This article represents the budget of the Fire Department totaling \$9,680,744.78 as shown in the book on page 35.*

**ARTICLE #6.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of **\$255,700.00** or some other amount for the ordinary operating expenses of the Information Systems Department for Fiscal Year 2025, to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee**  
**Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:** This article represents the budget of the Information Systems Department totaling \$255,700.00, as shown in the book on page 34.*

**ARTICLE #7.** To see if the District will vote to appropriate from Water Surplus the sum of **\$326,976.53**, to pay maturing debt of the Fire District incurred by or for the Water Department, as it becomes due and payable during Fiscal Year 2025, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee**  
**Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *This article represents the payments for the maturing debt that will become due during fiscal year 2025.*

**ARTICLE #8.** To see if the District will vote to appropriate from Water System Development Charges income the sum of **\$42,058.46** to pay accruing interest on the debt of the Fire District incurred by or for the Water Department, for the payment of accruing interest on debt as it becomes due and payable during Fiscal Year 2025, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee**  
**Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *This article represents the payments for the interest that accrue and become due during fiscal year 2025.*

**ARTICLE #9.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of **\$36,785.00** to be paid, in accordance with M.G.L. c.41 Section 108B or other applicable law, to the Town of Barnstable as compensation for assessors, tax collectors and any certified collectors expenses incurred on behalf of the District, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, or take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee**  
**Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *The Fire Districts in the Town appropriate \$80,000.00 to the Town of Barnstable each year for the expenses incurred for assessing and tax collection services. This article represents COMM's proportionate share of that amount.*

**ARTICLE #10.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Prudential Committee to either employ an outside auditor to audit the books and accounts of the District, including those of the Treasurer and Water Department; or to request an audit under the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 35, General Laws of Massachusetts, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee**  
**Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:*** *It is prudent and customary to ensure that the public's financial interests are being watched and the auditor ensures that the financial statements are materially correct.*

**ARTICLE #11.** To see if the District will authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2025, as permitted by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F, as amended.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:*** *These are agreements between banking institutions and the District Treasurer for services provided by the banks in consideration for funds on deposit. The Commissioner of Revenue of Massachusetts approves this form of agreement for such procedures.*

**ARTICLE #12.** To see if the District will vote to establish, as per M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5b, a separate stabilization fund which shall be labeled the "FIRE APPARATUS STABILIZATION FUND". The purpose of this fund is to reserve such sums of money as Annual or Special District Meeting shall vote to appropriate into it for future purchases of high cost fire department vehicles and equipment; appropriations for the use of the fund shall be taken at Annual or Special District Meeting; and/or further, to see if the district will vote to transfer and appropriate **\$1,000,000.00** from the general stabilization fund into the Fire Apparatus Stabilization Fund; and/or further, to see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$300,000.00** for the Fire Apparatus Stabilization Fund authorized by this article or take any action thereon.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:*** *The administration is often made aware of significant capital purchases that will occur several years into the future, for example new pumpers and a ladder truck, which can take 3-4 years to be built. This fund will allow us to reserve, with district meeting approval, a majority of the District's general stabilization fund into this special purpose stabilization fund as well as putting aside incremental sums of money over a period of time, with a plan to defray the borrowing costs on these large purchases. When the purchase is ready to be funded, a district meeting vote will be required to appropriate the funds.*

**ARTICLE #13.** To see if the District will vote to establish, as per M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5b, a separate stabilization fund which shall be labeled the "CAPITAL BUILDING STABILIZATION FUND". The purpose of this fund is to reserve such sums of money as Annual or Special District Meeting shall vote to appropriate into it for future purchases of high cost building maintenance and upgrades to the fire stations; appropriations for the use of the fund shall be taken at Annual or Special District Meeting; and/or further, to see if the District will vote

to transfer and appropriate **\$200,000.00** from Free Cash into the Capital Building Stabilization Fund authorized by this article or take any action thereon.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *The administration is often made aware of significant capital improvements that will occur over the next ten years at each of the stations. This fund will allow us to begin putting aside incremental sums of money over a period of time, with a plan to defray the borrowing costs on these large projects. When a project is ready to be funded, a district meeting vote will be required to appropriate the funds.*

**ARTICLE #14.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000,000.00** to deposit into the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund to apply to the unfunded liability as described in M.G.L. c. 32B section 20 with the approval of the Prudential Committee, or take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Prudential Committee  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *This article would transfer funds to fulfill our commitment to reserving monies every fiscal year for the unfunded liability of the District for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, to provide health, dental, and life insurance benefits to current and future retirees, their eligible dependents, and beneficiaries in accordance with Section 20 of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 32B.*

**ARTICLE #15.** To see if the District will vote to transfer and appropriate from Water Surplus the sum of **\$564,636.80** and re-appropriate from Article 19 from the May 17, 2023 District meeting the sum of **\$50,000.00**, making a total sum of **\$614,636.80** for the labor and materials necessary for new water service installations, repairs to the water system, leak detection, tree/brush removal, meter replacements, hydrant maintenance, replacement of undersize and older piping, water main extensions, and other related upgrades within the system, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Water Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *This article will allow the District to sub-contract related water installations and improvements through the public procurement process. This will continue the upgrade and maintenance of the Distribution system as necessary and as identified in the Water System Improvement Plan. The amount requested is based on an estimated number of new installations, repairs and the improvements have been coordinated with the Town's road re-surfacing plan as necessary. Funding for this article is to be transferred from Water Surplus.*

**ARTICLE #16.** To see if the District will vote to transfer and appropriate from Water Surplus the sum of **\$53,700.00** for the purchase of (1) van and related equipment, and if feasible, to sell or trade a 2016 Chevrolet van to offset the cost of such purchase, whichever is in the best interest of the District, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, with the approval of Prudential Committee, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Water Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:** This article will allow the purchase of new vehicle through the public procurement process and the sale or trade of high mileage (95k) vehicle. The new vehicle will have increased fuel efficiency and safety features. Our mechanic has recommended replacement of the vehicle based on a review of the fleet. Funding will be transferred from Water Surplus.*

**ARTICLE #17.** To see if the District will vote to transfer and appropriate from Water Surplus the sum of **\$80,500.00** for the purchase of (1) four wheel drive truck, and related equipment, and if feasible, to sell or trade a 2015 utility truck to offset the cost of such purchase, whichever is in the best interest of the District, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, with the approval of Prudential Committee, or to take any action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Water Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:** This article will allow the purchase of a new vehicle through the public procurement process and the sale or trade of high mileage vehicle. The new vehicle will have increased fuel efficiency and safety features. Our mechanic has recommended replacement of the vehicle based on a review of the fleet. Funding will be transferred from Water Surplus.*

**ARTICLE #18.** To see if the District will vote to transfer and appropriate from Water Surplus the sum of **\$75,000.00** to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund to apply to the water department's portion of the unfunded liability as described in M.G.L. c. 32B section 20 with the approval of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Water Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:** This article will contribute to the fund established for the liability identified by government accounting standards to provide health, dental, and life insurance benefits to current and future retirees, their eligible dependents, and beneficiaries in accordance with Section 20 of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 32B.*

**ARTICLE #19.** To see if the District will vote to transfer and re-appropriate from Article 19 of the May 17, 2023 District meeting the remaining balance of **\$45,636.45**, to a reserve account said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, with the approval of Prudential Committee, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, section 5C, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Water Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *The funds will allow the Department to meet unforeseen obligations after approval of the Prudential & Water Commissioners. While this fund is not directly appropriated to a particular use, unforeseen expenditures do occur such as price increases of supplies and emergency repairs. Transfers may be approved for the use of all or any portion of the fund to meet these unforeseen events.*

**ARTICLE #20.** To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of **\$60,000.00** for the purchase of ten (10) comprehensive sets of bunker gear, said funds to be spent under the direction of the Board of Fire Commissioners with approval of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *The average cost of a comprehensive set of personal protective equipment (PPE) is approximately \$5,500.00. By industry standard PPE is no longer usable after 10 years of service. The COMM Fire District has approximately 100 sets of personal protective equipment that require replacement. Each year since 2015 COMM has earmarked monies through this budget process to lessen the financial burden on the district. This article will continue the staggered purchasing process and update all members' front line set of personal protective equipment.*

**ARTICLE #21.** To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum **\$126,000.00** for the first phase of interior painting of COMM Fire Headquarters including the first and second floors or take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *The Headquarters of COMM Fire has not had fresh paint since the building was completed in 1988. Thirty-five (35) years of wear and tear on the interior walls and paint is obvious throughout headquarters. Despite minor updates and repairs that have been made throughout the years, Headquarters needs paint including the apparatus bays.*

**ARTICLE #22.** To see if the district will raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of **\$60,000.00** for the purchase of a new Fire Prevention Vehicle. The purchase will be offset by netting any proceeds of a sale or trade of the existing vehicle(s), whichever is in the best interest of the district under the direction of the Fire Commissioners with the approval of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *Fire Prevention is currently utilizing a 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe that was the Duty Officer Vehicle. The original intent was to replace the existing Fire Prevention Vehicle (2010 Explorer) with the re-purposed Duty Officer vehicle. Due to the delay in receiving the Duty Officer vehicle (+2 years,) it is now best to replace the original and current Fire Prevention vehicle(s) with a new vehicle and trade or sell the 2010 and 2016 vehicles.*

**ARTICLE #23.** To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of **\$200,000.00** for general on-going repairs to existing fire stations or take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *This funding, if approved would be used to support ongoing and continual maintenance, including HVAC work, roof repairs, hardware replacement, window repairs, etc., of the three (3) fire stations of the COMM Fire District.*

**ARTICLE #24.** To see if the district will vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum **\$70,000.00** for the repair and replacement of the COMM Fire Boat 310 sponsons, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

**Explanation:** *COMM Fire Boat 310 was originally a United States Coast Guard 25-foot patrol boat. The boat is on permanent loan to COMM Fire, and the district has faithfully maintained and updated the vessel as needed. The sponsons (which are the orange bumpers) are at end of life (almost 20 years old) and need replacement.*

**ARTICLE #25.** To see if the district will vote to raise and or appropriate or transfer from available funds the amount of **\$130,000.00** to supplement the purchase price of two (2) ambulances previously approved at the 2022 and 2023 Annual Meetings which have increased due to factors beyond the control of COMM Fire, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**



***Explanation:*** *Post-pandemic manufacturing delays and supply chain issues have greatly impacted the districts' ability to even find, never mind purchase, vehicles for emergency response. Original budget estimates, received from the manufacturer, for the purchasing of these two ambulances was grossly under the amount needed to purchase the vehicles. Funding this article will allow the purchase of these two critical vehicles to move forward.*

**ARTICLE #26.** To see if the district will vote to raise and or appropriate or borrow and/or transfer from available funds **\$4,200,000.00** for the purchase of two (2) new fire pumping apparatuses and a new ladder apparatus, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:*** *The district's current fire apparatuses needing replacement are 2005 and 2006 Pierce Quantum pumpers as well as the 2001 ladder truck. The manufacturer advises that an engine will take approximately 4 years to build and the ladder will take approximately 5 years to build, once ordered. It is in the best interest of the district to secure funding and order the apparatuses per Massachusetts General Law, with a goal of simultaneously setting aside funds in a special purpose stabilization fund to ultimately reduce the borrowing needs when the apparatuses are ready to be delivered.*

**ARTICLE #27.** To see if the district will vote transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the amount of **\$25,000.00** for the purchasing of 10 (ten) new Automatic External Defibrillators for deployment in COMM vehicles. If funded this money would be used to replace 10 (ten) automatic external defibrillators assigned to each fire department vehicle, or to take any other action thereon.

**Requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners  
Recommended by the Prudential Committee**

***Explanation:*** *The funds will allow the replacement of these 10 defibrillators is required by the manufacturers recommended end of service life. COMM Fire purchased 10 defibrillators in 2013 and all ten (10) are at end of service life.*

**HEREOF FAIL NOT** to make due return of the Warrant and your doings thereon at said meeting. Given under our hands this first day of May, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty Four.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

**Carlton Crocker, Chairman**

**John Lacoste**

**David V. Lawler**



A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer, Molly Stevens  
Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District



Fire Chief Mike Winn will be leaving the COMM Fire Department June 28,2024. We want to wish him the best of luck whatever his future endeavors may be.

He is a professional that created a work environment which was open and trusting. His management ideas and style helped all of us at COMM get through the Covid years (the bad years) and the good times (fishing tournaments). He always had the time, or made the time, to personally thank his employees and committees for doing a good job. Over the past 10 years, Mike has always looked to the future and made plans accordingly.

Certainly, he will be missed by all of us here and by many throughout the district and town. It's not good-bye; It's good luck. You will always be a friend.