

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, April 9, 2025

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

The meeting convened at 5:30 PM.

Public Comment: None.

David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2025 meeting as written. John Lacoste seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Hill: Chief Hill stated that there had been no changes made to the proposed budget since the last meeting. The fire department has reviewed the warrant articles and advised Molly that it looks good on their end.

With the departure of Brian Morrison, there will be promotions for Lieutenant and Captain taking place on Monday. There is an opening for a Firefighter/Paramedic that has been posted, and they have received 25 applications thus far, with the deadline being Friday, April 11th. Chief Hill shared that their job posting on Facebook reached 32,000 views.

Deputy Rogers gave a status update on the current capital projects going on around the stations. They are working with Attorney Doug Murphy on the underground storage tank project to ensure they are following the proper procurement laws.

There was a meeting with Rise Engineering to assess the HVAC system at Station 3 and the exterior lighting in the parking lot at Station 1. Nine of the thirteen lights are currently working but they can remove the arms from the posts of all of them and replace them with LEDs. David Lawler inquired about the eligibility for a municipal entity to receive incentives from the Commonwealth for these changes. Deputy Rogers stated that they are different for a municipality, but he does expect there to be some in the proposal from Rise.

The Chief and Deputy have received three bids for the FY 2025 painting article. Each vendor was on the County list and references will be checked prior to moving forward with one of them.

Craig Crocker: Craig is on track with the current budget and the proposed budget for FY 2026 has not changed since the last meeting. The bid for chemicals isn't due until May 6th which is well after our budget is finalized. They bid with the county to secure the lowest cost but expect an increase due to tariffs on products from Canada.

Molly Stevens: Molly handed out an updated copy of the budget. She made a small correction to the unemployment insurance line. The ambulance revenue was higher than last year, which will help with the purchase of the new bunker gear. Attorney Murphy gave the go-ahead on all articles Molly had submitted to him for review.

Molly reviewed the audit report that she had sent to everyone. There were seven items in the report, with many of them having been reported in previous years as well. They noted a lack of comprehensive internal control policies and vacation policies at the water department. Molly has gone over the language in the water contract, and it is different from the other contracts. Molly has an outline she created for policies and will be putting more effort into tackling this project. David suggested bringing in a consultant for this project as it takes a backseat to the day-to-day work that needs to be done.

There was a brief discussion of the postcard mailing for the upcoming election and meeting. Molly is hoping the new websites will eliminate the need for it next year. She and Chief Hill have had multiple meetings with website companies and are working through pricing and the best deal for the needs of the district.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2025 6:00 PM

Public Comment: None

Carlton Crocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 PM.

Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer