

# CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 2024**

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

The meeting convened at 6:03 PM.

**Public Comment:** None.

**David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2024 meeting as printed, John Lacoste seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Craig Crocker:** Craig reviewed the draft budget for FY 2025 and presented the proposed articles with the water commissioners' report for the booklet to be proofread. Contract negotiations are still in process.

There was a brief discussion about PFAS standard at the state and federal levels. Craig explained the filtration system in place and proactive sampling being done to ensure we remain in compliance at all our wells. Craig talked about testing at the end point as well as the entry point which is not required.

**Michael Winn:** The Chief began by explaining a mechanical failure of equipment owned and operated by Lawrence Lynch in our parking lot this morning that caused damage to a portion of our parking lot. There were no injuries caused by the non-hazardous liquid spill. The staining in the will be repaired by Lawrence Lynch tomorrow morning. Chief Winn noted how professional their staff was in handling the incident.

He then gave an update on the department. The Chief Officer Assessments will begin on Thursday afternoon and continue all day on Friday. The assessments are being completed by an outside team from Municipal Resources Inc. We have six candidates that have stepped forward and expressed interest in participating.

The fire department continues to be very busy, as is fire prevention and dispatch. Ambulance 326 continues to have ongoing issues that the mechanic has been working on along with other apparatus maintenance.

**Byron Eldridge:** Deputy Eldridge quickly reviewed the addition of a contingency line to the draft budget for FY25 due to the ongoing contract negotiations with both the firefighters and dispatchers. This will also be a transition contingency which will allow the new deputy and a new firefighter to start training. David Lawler commented that the tone of the negotiations with the firefighters have always been very professional and very polite.

The Apparatus Committee has reached out to Pierce to get updated figures on safety features for the new fire trucks per the request of the Prudential Committee at the last meeting.

**Molly Stevens:** Molly has taken the numbers from everyone's budget and the proposed articles to determine the tax impact. Molly has worked with the Chief and the Deputy to prioritize spending in the most efficient manner to avoid a drastic increase in the tax rate. The town has not set the property valuations at this point and is not expected to for several months. Without accurate figures, we must estimate the tax rate, but it should be in the ballpark.

Molly passed out and discussed the expenditure report. The entirety of the district is at 75% as of March 31<sup>st</sup> so exactly where we would expect to be at this point in the year.

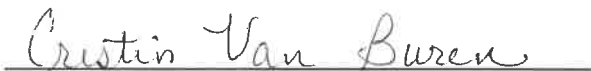
Molly reminded everyone that the annual warrant book is due to the printer by Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. There was a brief discussion about the paper and how many need to be printed.

It was agreed that there is no need for a meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting: May 8, 2024 at 6:00pm.**

**Public Comment:** None

**David Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM.**



**Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer**