

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

PRESENT: Carlton B. Crocker, John Lacoste, David Lawler, Prudential Committee; Molly Stevens, Clerk/Treasurer; Michael Winn, Fire Chief; Craig Crocker, Water Superintendent

Also Present: Byron Eldridge, Deputy Fire Chief

The meeting convened at 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment: None.

David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting as printed, John Lacoste seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Craig Crocker: Superintendent Crocker presented the latest pumpage report and projected a possible \$200,000 hit to revenue based on the wet summer. Craig also handed out a draft proposal of new water rates. He presented what he had presented to the Water Commissioners and a comparison of nearby districts. There was discussion about getting in line with the neighboring districts and what parts of the rates should be changed. Chairman Crocker suggested a joint meeting with the Water Commission to discuss the rates and what capital projects need to be looked at in the next 10-15 years.

Craig also stated his budget was tracking where it should be at this point in time. Craig affirmed that the water main at Route 28 and Strawberry Hill Road should be completed the following week.

Michael Winn: Chief Winn apologized for missing the last meeting and stated that at the end of the meeting there was a fire on Marie-Ann Terrace which resulted in a total loss of a garage and three vehicles. Chief reported the troops did a fantastic job and nobody was hurt.

The three new recruits will be graduating from the Fire Academy on November 17, and Chief Winn invited anyone who wanted to attend.

The chief then announced a program that Pat Hill is bringing in with a grant for the next staff meeting on December 19, 2023. The program, *Working in a Diversified Workforce in 2023*, will run two sessions on the 19th and all are welcome to attend one. This is a program to help interactions within the workforce as well as with people who may have different views or philosophies.

The new ambulance was placed into service on October 13, 2023. In the month of September COMM was dispatched to 486 calls which represents an increase of 46 calls over last

September, 18 Senior Safe calls as part of Lt. Hill's Community Risk Reduction Program. In addition, the mechanic has been very busy keeping all of the ambulances and apparatus on the road.

The crews were able to have some important training on a home slated for demolition at 132 Point of Pines. This was a great opportunity to practice key aspects of responding to dwelling fires without consideration for ruining anything.

Chief Winn happily announced that this year's CPE reimbursement is anticipated to be \$189,540.00. On the flip side he stated that we know that we will be short on the cost of the Ambulances approved at the last two Annual Meetings. We also are short on the cost of the service vehicle for the mechanic and need to keep it on the radar as to how we will cover these costs. He also brought up a request for a future meeting with the Treasurer, Prudential Committee, and the Apparatus Committee to discuss the cost, ordering, financing ideas for the needs of the department. With a 48-60 month lead time and costs escalating the longer we wait, the department is looking for guidance as to how to proceed.

John Lacoste asked the chief about whether the department is prepared to deal with 9 million volts if there were to be a fire. The chief stated that "Much like we respond to any electrical emergency, there are limited options for us as a fire department because we don't deal with energized electrical equipment. We secure the scene, we protect the exposures, and we call the subject matter experts. We would handle an underground conduit carrying 1200 megawatts of power the same way. No fire department is ready or rated to handle energized electrical equipment."

Molly Stevens: Molly stated that she was still working on closing the FY23 books to get Free Cash Certified. She also announced that she was getting the Assistant Clerk/Treasurer job advertisement ready to go out. There was discussion of trying to guide some of the larger purchases with respect to the budget. There needs to be some more concrete numbers brought forth to really figure out how to budget these.

New Business: Molly stated the fire department is requesting acceptance of a Gift Account for the new Peer Support K9 Fund. The account would follow MGL chapter 44 section 53A and be segregated from the general fund and used for the purpose of caring for the peer support dog. The expenses need no further appropriation and would be under the control of the Chief as the department head. Expenses would be approved through the vendor warrant process.

David Lawler made a motion to accept donations for the Peer Support K9 program. John Lacoste seconded and a vote was unanimous.

The fire department is also requesting acceptance of a gift account for the Community Risk Reduction Program. The account would follow MGL chapter 44 section 53A and be segregated from the general fund and used for the purpose of caring for the peer support dog. The expenses need no further appropriation and would be under the control of the Chief as the department head. Expenses would be approved through the vendor warrant process.

David Lawler made a motion to accept donations for the Community Risk Reduction Program. John Lacoste seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Molly tried to put together possible dates to hold the Tax Classification Hearing with the Assessor from the Town of Barnstable the following week.

Next regular meeting: December 13, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Public Comment: None

David Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM.

Molly Stevens, Clerk/Treasurer