

# CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

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

**Also Present:** Byron Eldridge, Deputy Chief; Zenas and Susan Crocker, Residents; Paul Cusach, Town Council of Osterville.

The meeting convened at 6:06 p.m.

**Public Comment:** Chairman Crocker recognized Zenas and Susan Crocker, residents of Osterville, who offered comments on the most recent property tax bills.

David Lawler provided feedback on the Fiscal Year 2023 property tax bills. There was a discussion amongst the meeting attendees.

**Chief Winn:** Chief Winn started by discussing personnel changes that took place over the past month. Chief Winn recognized the passing of two former COMM Fire employees, Call Member Jim McGuire and Deputy Phil Fields. Chief also stated the department had a firefighter, who was training at the recruit academy in Bridgewater, come down with Rhabdomyolysis and was hospitalized for five days. A big piece of news the Chief offered is that Captain Enrique Arrascue has been selected as the Town of Yarmouth's new Fire Chief. The Chief stated that him and the Deputy have been working on the first draft of Fiscal Year 2024 budget and Articles. Chief Winn stated for the record, that the Local 59 Union has given notice of desire to bargain. The biggest unknown cost for the Fire Department going forward is fuel costs.

**Byron Eldridge:** The Deputy gave a detailed explanation of all line items proposed in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. The Deputy noted that there is a 1% decrease in the overall budget due to there only being 26 pay periods in Fiscal Year 2024, there were 27 pay periods in Fiscal Year 2023. Chief Winn distributed a draft of Articles for Fiscal year 2024.

There was a discussion regarding the 10-alarm fire at Brockton Hospital last week. Comm Fire was called to mutual aid. It was the largest mutual aid package moved in the history of Massachusetts, moving 187 patients from the hospital, and the first real activation of the Ambulance Task Force in Massachusetts.

**Craig Crocker:** Craig distributed his draft documents for the Annual District Meeting booklet, minus the Boards report, which is almost complete. Craig stated the Operation and Maintenance budget has not changed since the last meeting. This draft does not include any salary increases. Craig stated that he spoke with his chemical supplier, and they have stated that there will be no price increase for now, but it has gone up significantly in the past two years. Craig discussed his Articles proposed for Annual District Meeting. Craig stated that the department has been approved for a \$200,000.00 grant towards PFAS testing.

Craig stated he does have an emergency need for a department vehicle as he was in an accident and the department truck has been totaled. We have not received the insurance proceeds yet.

**Molly Stevens:** Molly stated the add for our Election was in the Barnstable Patriot on Friday, February 10, 2023, and nomination papers were available at the Prudential office starting Monday, February 13 2023. Molly reviewed the Nomination Paper Policy that went into effect last Fiscal Year, which states the individual interested in office must disclose which position they would like to be elected for. Nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk, Ann Quirk, by March 24, 2023 and back to the Treasurer at COMM by April 7, 2023.

Molly stated that she and Assistant Treasurer, Alexandra Jackson attended a Cape Cod Municipal Health Group meeting last week regarding insurance rates for Fiscal Year 2024. The Cape Cod Municipal Health Group Board of Trustees voted to increase the insurance health rates for low deductible health plans by 4%, and an increase on high deductible health plans will be 2%. There is no increase to the dental and vision plans for Fiscal Year 2024.

Lastly Molly has put together some suggestions for a Personnel Code. The Personnel Code would be for all department supervisors and all non-union members. In the absence of a Human Resource Department, Molly has reached out to a known HR consultant for Cape Cod, to have the company come to COMM and do a presentation and help us implement a Personal Code.

**David Lawler made a motion to approve minutes from January 11, 2023 meeting as printed. John Lacoste seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Next meeting: March 15, 2023 at 6:00pm.**

**Public Comment:** John Cusach, Town Councilor of Osterville, provided public comment regarding positive feedback to the Prudential Committee and the operation of COMM Fire.

**Carlton Crocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26p.m. John Lacoste seconded the motion. It was a unanimous vote.**

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**Alexandra Jackson, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer**