

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023

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

The meeting convened at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment: None.

John Lacoste made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2023 meeting as printed, David Lawler seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023 Tax Classification Hearing as printed, John Lacoste seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Michael Winn: The Chief began with a reminder that on December 19, 2023 we are offering a training program on working in a diverse and inclusive environment. We will run two sessions on the 19th, and all are welcome to attend either 10:00 AM or 1:00 PM. Chief Winn also touched on the Nero's Training that we hosted two weeks ago and the importance of the program to our agency. All three graduates are back from the academy and working in their groups, unfortunately we have two injured firefighters at the same time. Chief Winn spoke about beginning the budget process, and the fact that we have union contracts to be negotiated at the same time. The department has been very busy with community events. The department has a new shop vehicle, and the mechanic is still working on outfitting that. They are also working on a dispatch update article which looks to be well over the article funds, but they are working on that daily. The department is still on target to receive two ambulances in July. The Chief stated that the department's boat has responded to 15 Marine incidents this year, including assisting with a rescue in Hyannis while in route to a nighttime training drill. The Chief reported that his budget was on target for the current fiscal year. The Chief spoke about the apparatus committee and how they are dedicated and working hard to compile a wish list. He is hoping they will make a presentation soon. Chief Winn touched upon the "clean cab" concept that is high on the list.

There was discussion about gear, and the danger of having contaminants in enclosed cabs as well as fiscal consideration by the committee and the options available for trucks now.

Craig Crocker: Superintendent Crocker presented a draft FY25 operational and maintenance budget. He noted that they would be negotiating a contract as well and that will be the hard part of the budget process. Craig answered a question about when the water rate increase may take effect, with the plan being July, giving the department time to notify the residents. The amounts have not been finalized. Superintendent Crocker also mentioned the legal portion of his budget is still in limbo as well. He also noted that he would be attending a Town Council meeting on November 21 to try to acquire some CPC funds to help with legal costs of land acquisition.

Molly Stevens: Molly announced that FY23 has finally been closed, the balance sheet and tax recapitulation were both submitted to the DOR. She noted that we have received notification that the tax rate is certified at \$1.16 which will provide our FY24 budget funds. She also stated that we are waiting on Free Cash certification but that it looks to be in the \$500,000 range. The Water Department Surplus looks to be approximately \$1.1 million. Molly recommended using the free cash and water surplus as stabilization fund to put away each year to grow towards capital projects. Molly thanked all of her peers in the district for all of their support and assistance over the previous months while she navigated the office alone. Molly also announced that she had advertised the assistant position in the Cape Cod Times and online and there are 15 resumes to date.

Date of the next meeting was decided on Wednesday 1/3/2024.

Public Comment: None

John Lacoste made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 PM.

Molly Stevens, Clerk/Treasurer