

**CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022**

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**PRESENT:** Carlton B. Crocker, John Lacoste via telephone, David Lawler, Prudential Committee; Krystal Abrams, Clerk/Treasurer; Alexandra Jackson, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer; Craig Crocker, Water Superintendent; Byron Eldridge, Deputy.

**Also Present:** Molly Stevens

The meeting convened at 6:03p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Krystal Abrams:** Krystal opened the meeting by introducing Molly Stevens, who will be replacing Krystal as Clerk/Treasurer.

**David Lawler made a motion to appoint Molly Stevens as Clerk/Treasurer, who will be taking office and entering a contract as of January 1, 2023. Her annual salary will be \$85,000.00. So moved. John lacoste Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Krystal will be available for training and any questions Molly has beyond December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Mike Winn:** Chief Winn discussed the significant fire they had last Thursday into Friday morning, and commended efforts of the fire fighters at the scene. Chief stated it was a “tell-tale example of modern fire behavior”. Chief stated they are interviewing new candidates for a fire fighter and paramedic. Last month the fire dept concluded the Lieutenants exam, and this coming Monday at the Fire Commissioners meeting, they will be having interviews for permanent Lieutenant position, currently being held by Dan Carpenter. The Chief also stated he will be announcing the new Captains in January. The Fire Department has also made some conditional offers of employment to part-time dispatchers. There are two individuals who have accepted those conditional offers. There was a discussion between the Chief and the Prudential Board regarding the availability of ambulances and equipment. The Chief states they have received information that Chassis for ambulances may not be available until 2025. The plan is to keep 5 ambulances we have and hold on to the ambulance we were going to trade. The Fire Department did order a chassis, coming up on the two-year mark, and are hoping to have that in the beginning of February 2023. There is a second one on order and the manufacturers are telling us it will be twenty-four months before we get it. There is an extreme shortage on chassis.

**Krystal Abrams:** Krystal's discussed the latest Bond Anticipation Note. We originally issued 1,071,000.00 to be borrowed last year, this matured on December 6, 2022, after what we appropriated for FY 23, \$300,200.00 towards the ambulance and \$100,000.00 towards water. We went out to bid on November 21, 2022, for the remaining balance of \$771,000.00. The awarded financial institution was Oppenheimer, with an interest rate of 4.35%. This is compared to last year at 0.38%. This will mature in 365 days. Krystal stated all DOR documents for the tax rate have been submitted and approved. As stated at the last meeting free cash was certified at \$52,856.00 for Fiscal Year 24, and the tax rate has been set to \$1.27. Bill Fraher, CPA, was involved in this process and looked over all submissions before they were submitted on Gateway.

There was a discussion amongst the board regarding the letter to the town council.

**David Lawler made a motion that we do not send the letter to town council. John Lacoste seconded the motion. Carlton Crocker opposed. The motion passed by majority vote.**

There was a brief discussion amongst the board regarding Assistant Treasurer hourly increase. David Lawler agreed for Carlton Crocker to make the recommendation for hourly rate increase for Assistant Treasurer, that will be set forth in a motion at the next Prudential Meeting.

Carlton Crocker expressed the urgency of all board members to sign the Warrants in a timely manner.

**Craig Crocker:** Craig gave a brief overview of the Vineyard Wind Project and the routes in which the water mains are being replaced. Patty's Pump Station is moving along and should be up and running and online in May 2023. The water department techs are working on getting all of the meter readings and the water bills will go out the first week in January. The water department is working on getting the online payment system up and running for the residents to be able to pay those January bills online. Craig stated he is working with the Conservation Preservation Committee; he has submitted a letter of intent for funding the soft costs that come with going out and trying to find land.

**David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022, meeting minutes as printed, Carlton Crocker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Next meeting: January 11, 2023 at 5:30pm.**

**Public Comment:** None

**David Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. John Lacoste seconded the motion. It was a unanimous vote.**

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**Alexandra Jackson, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer**