

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025

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

The meeting convened at 5:58 PM.

Public Comment: None.

David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting as written. John Lacoste seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Byron Eldridge: Chief Eldridge thanked everyone for their support and help over the years. This is his last meeting before his retirement. He has been working closely with the deputies for a smooth transition. He extended an invitation to everyone for the change of command ceremony scheduled for Friday, February 28th at 10 o'clock at Station 1.

Patrick Hill: Deputy Chief Hill passed out proposed warrant articles for the upcoming district meeting and a draft budget. He went over the replacement of the underground fuel storage tanks with a modern above-ground system. He and Molly have begun the procurement process. There was a brief discussion about the cost of the fuel we provide to neighboring districts; a nominal increase per gallon may be warranted. Other items proposed were PFAS-Free bunker gear and new AED units. The salary line will be updated to reflect expected retirements in 2026.

Deputy Hill discussed his plan for a new Fire Department website separate from the District and Water Department websites. The public frequently uses the website for permits and payments and there are a lot of times when they are not able to access it. The company managing is not always able to address the issues in a timely manner. He would like to hire an outside agency to create an updated site which will act as an information hub with videos. David Lawler requested that there be a prominent link to the other two websites on each of the sites since we are all under the same umbrella.

Michael Rogers: Deputy Chief Rogers talked about utilizing structures set for demolition for hands-on training. General Contractors and homeowners have reached out to offer the use of the property to conduct the training. In January 36 members, four dispatchers, four Cotuit members, and our two high school interns were able to get a week's worth of training done. The fire academy no longer has a burn building which was previously used for live fire training twice per year. Much of the training has been happening online; they are hoping to increase the training budget to allow for hands-on experiences.

Craig Crocker: Craig passed out the most recent pumpage report. It is consistent with what we have seen during the month of January in the past couple of years.

He is still waiting for projected figures from some of the suppliers to finalize the budget, but for the most part it is complete. Craig's draft articles include two trucks, water system improvements, and OPEB reserve account.

Craig quickly discussed the PFAS control measures in place. Proactive testing continues and Craig has been working with a consultant from Weston & Sampson on emerging technology in PFAS remediation. Everyone agrees that the only acceptable level is zero. Molly has been working with Craig on a grant application, and we have funds in a stabilization account for future PFAS elimination.

Carlton Crocker: Carlton went over the IT budget that was turned in by Rich Sargent. He reports that the phone system has been working well. We are still waiting for a proposal from our current vendor, E-Nable Business Solutions, as the Avaya phones we use have been discontinued by the manufacturer, but we do have some spares available.

Molly Stevens: Molly shared that nomination papers will be available Tuesday due to the holiday on Monday. Cristin has requested quotes from three printers for the warrant books to make sure we are getting the best value. Molly will advise the department heads if there is a need to change the deadline for their reports to be submitted.

A preliminary budget was passed out for review. Molly discussed her plans for funding the new trucks that were approved at last year's district meeting as well as other capital projects on the horizon. She will continue to work on finalizing the figures and send the articles to Attorney Murphy to review.

Cape Cod Municipal Health Group voted to subsidize a portion of the rate increases for FY 26 from their fund balances; All active plans will see an increase of 6.5% as opposed to 10% or 12%. They are also adding coverage to the dental plan without raising the premiums for the second year in a row.

Carlton thanked everyone for their timely preparation and submission of budget items and proposed articles. Molly agreed and stated that she feels we are in good shape and a second meeting in March is not anticipated.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: None

Carlton Crocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 PM.


Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer