CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

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

The meeting convened at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment: None.

David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025 meeting as written. John Lacoste seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Craig Crocker: Craig passed out a draft of the FY 2026 operation and maintenance budget, noting minor changes for increased sampling and other cost increases with pump station maintenance. There was a brief discussion about water quality sampling and what some of the future regulations may be.

Craig also outlined the warrant articles and overall spending plan. He will finalize with Molly. Molly added that she gave everyone a copy of the articles which were sent to Attorney Doug Murphy for review.

Patrick Hill: Chief Hill handed out a copy of the minutes of the February 24, 2025 Fire Commissioners' Meeting. There have been no changes made to the proposed budget discussed at the last meeting.

The Chief and Deputy have been working on multiple capital projects pertaining to past articles. They are waiting for more information on the underground storage tank project and are moving forward with painting the first floor at Station One. As the bids come in, they will be shared with everyone.

Deputy Mike Rogers discussed equipment needs, including the need for nine sets of gear to replace sets that are well beyond the ten-year reasonable useful lifetime. The Prudential Committee recommended accelerating the replacement of gear for the firefighters to ensure they all have at least one set of PFAS-Free gear. The last five firefighters hired all have PFAS-Free gear already. Deputy Rogers will get pricing ahead of the next meeting.

The dispatch center is nearing completion. Once the electrician does the wiring, they expect it to wrap up very quickly.

Molly Stevens: Molly received an email from Bartholemew regarding a semi-annual review of the OPEB fund. The decision was made to have her come into the office to go over it as opposed to a presentation to the board.

Molly gave an update on the election and district meeting schedule. She will share the proof of the book before it goes to the printer. We are still looking for a photo for the cover; Molly spoke with Britt Crosby and he is going to see what he has from the change of command ceremony.

Molly added two articles to extend the contracts for streetlights and ambulance billing which were previously discussed. Everyone agrees that we would like to extend them. She also added an article to request to adopt a section of a paragraph from Chapter 41, Section 111F allowing us to set up an injury leave indemnity fund which would make the accounting clearer.

With three Worker's Comp claims since January, Molly brought up the need to implement a standard procedure on how employees are paid following an injury. She spoke with Attorney Hodnett regarding the baseline requirements and whether we could offer more than that. She would like to revisit the Personnel Code that was introduced two years ago to fill in some gaps in the policies and procedures we currently have documented. John volunteered to work with Molly on this.

Molly briefly discussed the results of the audit. There are some items that have been brought up previously by the auditor that the group will discuss at the next meeting. David requested that Molly send out the management letter ahead of the meeting so they can review it.

Carlton asked about the quotes we have received for the printing of the books and postcards. No decision has been made at this time. There was a discussion about posting requirements and how we can use technology in the future to get the word out about our election and meetings.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2025 5:30 PM

Public Comment: None

Carlton Crocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Cristin Van Buren

Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer