

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, November 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; Craig Crocker Water Superintendent

Not Present: Michael Rogers, Deputy Fire Chief

Public Attendance: None

The meeting convened at 5:35 PM.

Public Comment: None.

John Lacoste made a motion to postpone the tax classification hearing to a date to be determined once the values are set with the Department of Revenue. Carlton Crocker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Lacoste made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2025 meeting as written. Carlton Crocker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Hill: Chief Hill summarized the minutes of the last Fire Commissioners Meeting and distributed copies of the full report for review. With the new ambulances now in service, they are beginning to look at equipment needs for the coming year. They need six new LifePak monitors for cardiac monitoring and defibrillation for critical patients. The cost per unit is approximately \$60,000.00 which will be offset by the trade-in of the current units.

There was a preliminary discussion of the staffing proposal provided by the Chief ahead of tonight's meeting. Over the next four years, he would like to staff two crews at Station One to eliminate the outdated stand-by model we are currently using and bring us closer to the national standard. The Board supports the proposal and suggests that the Chief continue discussions with the Fire Commissioners on a comprehensive roadmap to avoid potential problems with the phased hiring approach. They emphasized the benefits to public safety as well as firefighter safety. It was agreed that there should be a meeting to address questions from the public prior to the District Meeting in the spring.

Fifteen firefighters participated in the promotional assessment process for the Acting Lieutenant vacancy. The list was narrowed down to three who will be interviewed at the next Fire Commissioners meeting on Monday, November 17th.

Lastly, there will be a large multi-agency dive drill taking place at the Oyster Harbors drawbridge tomorrow between 8 AM and 1 PM. Despite several press releases going out, the Chief expects a couple of calls from citizens regarding the presence of fire and police personnel.

Craig Crocker: Craig passed out the pumpage report. He estimates we'll be around 1.2 billion gallons for the end of the year. We remain under the maximum withdrawal amount set by the State and Craig is confident we won't reach it.

The Water Commissioners are analyzing how our fees compare to other local towns and districts. American Water Works recommends adjusting fees every three to four years. The Board recommends this approach in the future.

There was a brief discussion of the Water Department's involvement with the sewer project on Route 28. Craig had a crew on site the first night but overall, there is little need for staff to be there each night. The work is expected to take approximately 2 years to complete.

Molly Stevens: Molly is in good shape for the annual audit; the auditors will be in the building next week. She has also begun preliminary work on the budgets. She will provide more information to the department heads once the valuations from the town are in as well as the interest amount from next week's BAN sale.

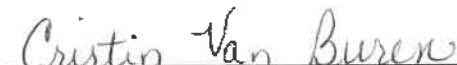
The motion to accept the purchasing policy was deferred until the next meeting so it can be reviewed in detail. The need for additional policies to address the disposition of real estate, property, and other things of that nature will also be discussed in the future.

Molly explained that the tax classification hearing did not take place tonight because the Assessor's valuations were not set by the DOR yet. All agreed they would accommodate the Assessor should he be ready prior to December 10th.

Next Meeting: December 10, 2025 6:00 PM

Public Comment: None

John Lacoste made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM.



Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer