

# CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2026**

**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

**John Lacoste made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2026 meeting as written. David Lawler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Patrick Hill:** Chief Hill gave a summary of Winter Storm Hernando and some of the challenges the department faced during the height of the storm. Mechanic Rich Randall did an amazing job with the plow, responding to every call the fire department needed to get to. Over the three days, they responded to 190 calls with the dispatch center answering 500 calls during the storm.

There were issues with communications due to Comcast and Verizon outages during the storm that were completely out of our control. They hope to have a satellite backup plan in place for any future storms.

Captain Tom Goodearl has announced his retirement on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be interviews for the Lieutenant and Captain on March 16<sup>th</sup> to fill Tom's position. There was a recent job posting for a paramedic position. Twenty-seven applications were received, with four candidates being interviewed. A conditional offer was made to Chris Taylor who has been working for Falmouth Fire for ten years. Prior to that he was with Boston EMS for five years.

Chief Hill had his final speaking engagement on the staffing proposal at the Centerville Library on Tuesday, which was well attended by residents. He highlighted some of the questions he was asked by attendees and has encouraged the public to attend the Annual Meeting in May. Chairman Crocker complimented the Chief on his presentation.

The current budget is on track despite the increased overtime due to the storm. The Chief will keep an eye on things over the next couple of months. He touched on some of the proposed articles for FY 27, which were previously approved by the Fire Commissioners at their last meeting, but will need to go back over with them after finding a small error in their budget.

**Craig Crocker:** Craig shared the latest draft of his budget and proposed articles. He's received preliminary approval for the Asset Management Grant and expects to receive final approval in April, hopefully before the warrant goes to print.

Craig shared the issues encountered during the storm. Despite equipment failures they always had water positively flowing into the system and the tanks were full. He held a debriefing with the department and found ways to improve before the next storm.

**Molly Stevens:** Molly touched on the booklet and asked for input on the Centennial being the focus. She asked for an array of photos throughout the years to put inside the cover. Chairman Crocker offered to reach out to his cousin who is a local historian.

Molly brought up concerns about the capacity of the meeting room upstairs for the Annual Meeting. The capacity of the room is 175, but we only have about 80 chairs. Cristin has reached out to the school district, and they offered the use of the cafeteria at West Villages Elementary. The decision was made by the Board to have the meeting upstairs at Station One.

Molly distributed the proposed budget and notes pertaining to the various sources and uses. With the increased insurance premiums, there is an overall budget increase of 13.2%. There was a brief discussion about OPEB and our investment strategy. Molly will coordinate a meeting with Michelle from Bartholemew. David asked Molly to provide the figures on some alternative funding strategies with the OPEB.


Molly went over the IT Budget as well as her strategy for paying down the new ambulance, old capital projects and the roof settlement monies from 1996. There is approximately \$40,000.00 which has been segregated all these years. Her recommendation is to move it to the Capital Building Stabilization Fund as it's earning little interest in a money market account right now.

**John Lacoste made a motion to appropriate the \$40,000.00 into the Building Stabilization Fund, as suggested by the Treasurer. David Lawler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Next Meeting: April 8, 2026 6:00 PM**

**Public Comment:** None

**David Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM.**

  
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**Cristin Van Buren, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer**