

Wareham Fire District

Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes 08/27/2026

Meeting held at 2550 Cranberry Highway, Wareham MA

Prudential Committee Members:

Dean Decas, Joyce Bacchiocchi, George Barrett, Jonathan Rogers, Brian Crocker

Also present: Clerk Treasurer Wendy Lemieux, Chief John Kelley, Interim Assistant Chief Chris Smith

5:30 PM Meeting called to order by Chairperson Dean Decas -

Correspondence – 5:30 PM

- None

Approval of Bills and Purchase Orders – 5:30 PM

- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve purchase order to John Hoadley and Sons, Inc., water main and hydrant repair parts, \$5,971.25. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve purchase order to Horacio's, replacement exhaust hood at Station 1, \$10,000.00. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve a purchase order to Ferguson Waterworks, water service installation materials, \$6,986.87. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve a payment to CBIZ, Progress bill #1 FY 26 Audit, \$5,500.00. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker –

yes. 5-0-0. Jonathan Rogers inquired about the split between the Water Department and the Prudential Committee.

- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve a payment to Odyssey Advisors, Inc., OPEB valuation for FY26 and FY27 (split with Water Dept), \$1,375.00. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0.

Minutes – Vote – 5:36 PM

- 08/06/26 – Motion to approve by Brian Crocker, second Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0. While reviewing these minutes Jonathan Rogers stated that he believed we had approved the Second Assistant Engineer job posting and job description. The committee did not believe that was the case and the minutes reflect that.
- 08/20/26 – Motion to approve by Brian Crocker, second Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0

Chief's Report: Chief John Kelley – 5:48 PM

- See Attached
- Chief Kelley spoke about the repairs needed at Station 3. Jonathan Rogers asked if the proposed repairs aligned with the long term goals of the District. Chief Kelley replied that they do. He also stated that we cannot increase the footprint at that location. Brian Crocker asked if after the repairs were made, would personnel be able to stay at Station 3. Chief Kelley replied yes.

Clerk Treasurer Report – Wendy Lemieux – 5:55 PM

- See Attached
- Joyce Bacchiocchi asked if the revenue reports could be emailed to the Pru Comm, and Wendy replied that yes, she would do that.

Special District Meeting – Approval of Articles – Vote 5:57 PM

- Clerk Treasurer Wendy Lemieux provided the Committee with a copy of the warrant for the Special District Meeting to be held on September 21, 2026.
- Article 1: Selection of a moderator to be held at the meeting.

- Article 2: Prior Year Bill Payment Appropriation: Motion to vote favorable action, Joyce Bacchiocchi. Second by Brian Crocker. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
Jonathan Rogers asked if the amount in the article represented the total amount due. Wendy Lemieux stated that yes, it is at this time but that interest will continue to accrue. She is not able to discuss this with DUA until this amount is paid. If interest continues to accrue it will be paid from the District's unemployment trust account.
- Article 3: Rescind Article 5 ADM 4/14/25: Motion to vote favorable action, Brian Crocker. Second by George Barrett. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- Article 4: Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Matching Funds: Motion to vote favorable action, Brian Crocker. Second by George Barrett. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0. Jonathan Rogers asked about the percentage calculation, and Chief Kelley replied that it is related to the payment for labor.
- Article 5: Station Maintenance and Repairs: Motion to vote favorable action, Brian Crocker. Second by George Barrett. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0. Jonathan Rogers asked about an article that had been proposed in the spring for Station 3 and how it related to the Fire Station Study Committee. The article for Station 3 was not on the warrant at the meeting in the spring. Jonathan asked about the status of the Fire Station Study Committee. Brian and Dean expressed concern about losing momentum on the station study, and that the current study was making good progress and that the appropriated funds were expected to be needed in the near future. Jonathan also questioned using funds from the Stabilization Fund for this Article. He also asked for confirmation that these repairs are addressing long term goals of the District, and that was confirmed by Chief Kelley.
- Article 6: Prior Year Bill Payment Appropriation - Motion to vote favorable action, Brian Crocker. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0.
- Article 7: DUA Reimbursable Wages – Note: the amount is based on information provided by the DUA. Motion to vote favorable action, Brian Crocker. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0.
- Article 8: Water Purification Plant and Wells Emergency Generators - Motion to vote favorable action, Brian Crocker. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers –

yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0. Note: There was discussion of the longterm grant process, which has been underway since approximately 2021 and how the grant reimbursement process works. Water Superintendent Roy Maher was present to answer Committee questions. Roy reviewed the bid alternatives. It was also discussed that the engineering costs are not covered by the grant. The grant is in place, and the funding for this article will come from Water Surplus.

- The Warrant was signed by all members of the Prudential Committee.

Prudential Committee Reports – 6:20 PM

Vehicle Policy – possible vote

- This policy has been reviewed by our attorney, but more review is necessary.
- It will need to be reviewed by the respective Unions.
- Next steps: confer with tax subject matter specialists to ensure the proper tax treatment of District vehicle use regardless of vehicle policy implementation, and confer with the respective Unions.”
- There must be clarification of approval authority between the Prudential Committee and department heads.

Vacant office position

- The position has been posted per the contract.

Update on recording of Pru Comm meetings

- We will continue to explore all options for recording meetings.
- Joyce spoke with District counsel regarding the recording of meetings and the recommendation is that the District not undertake recording and storage of meeting on its own. Any time a public meeting is recording using any means, that recording becomes a public record and must be stored accordingly.
- There was discussion about using Wareham Media to record and store meetings. Funding for that expense is not included in our current budget, so we must wait until then next budget cycle to consider that expense.
- The committee did not move forward with recording meetings at this time.

Public Comment – 6:38 PM

Statement by Chair: District members are welcome to share comments on topics that are not listed on the meeting agenda during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Each speaker will be allotted up to two (2) minutes to address the Committee.

Please note that, in accordance with standard procedure, the Prudential Committee will listen to comments during this time but will not respond or engage in discussion. This is not intended to be dismissive; rather, it ensures that all voices have an opportunity to be heard while maintaining compliance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law prohibits Committee members from discussing matters that are not included on the posted agenda. By following this procedure, we help ensure that meetings remain open, fair, transparent, and legally compliant.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a respectful and productive meeting environment.

- Brian Crocker asked about the status of the sale of surplus equipment. AC Chris Smith replied that all information related to surplus equipment is public. He also pointed out that there were many circumstances related to past fire station studies and potential property acquisitions.
- Roy Maher inquired about the status of the mechanic's vehicle, and Chief Kelley replied that he could call him for more information.

Any business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of meeting – 6:39 PM

- None

Adjourn – 6:40 PM

- Motion to adjourn by Brian Crocker, second Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas - yes, George Barrett - yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi - yes, Jonathan Rogers - yes, Brian Crocker - yes. 5-0-0.

Next scheduled meeting is September 10, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by Joyce Bacchiocchi, Clerk.

Chair Don Wilson

Vote Date 9/24/26

Clerk John Paul

Approve 5

Disapprove 0

Abstain 0

Document List:

Chief's Report 08/27/26
Clerk Treasurer Report 08/27/26
Proposed Warrant Special District Meeting 09/12/26
Proposed District Vehicle Policy
Meeting minutes, 08/06/26 and 08/20/26
Scope of proposed work at Station 3

Chief's Report

August 27, 2026

Good afternoon,

Since our last meeting, several important matters have taken place within the organization.

The annual Massachusetts inspection sticker inspections have been completed for the entire fleet. Tower 1 was sent to Allegiance for its annual third-party aerial inspection and aerial service. The inspection identified several minor deficiencies which will be addressed.

Squad 2, which was involved in a minor accident, was evaluated by the insurance adjuster. We have received an initial repair estimate of approximately **\$3,110.00**. The vehicle will be brought to the body shop in the near future.

The Board of Engineers met and voted to approve an article for repairs to Station 3. The estimated cost of the project is **\$125,000.00**. A copy of the article was forwarded to the Clerk-Treasurer's Office for further processing.

A firefighter was out on 111F due to a minor injury beginning August 12, 2026. He was cleared and returned to duty on August 24, 2026, and was subsequently cleared to return to full firefighting duty. The second firefighter that was out on 111F was cleared to return to full firefighting duty on August 26, 2026. I wish him well and look forward to his return. I would also like to thank Firefighter Brundage for serving in the Acting Captain role during the past several months.

The firefighter who had been on military leave has returned to full firefighting duty.

An engine company responded to the Marshfield Fire Department to provide coverage for the town during the day shift following the passing of an active captain. We were pleased to assist our neighboring department during this difficult time.

Weekly meetings with Motorola regarding the radio project are continuing, and the project is progressing as planned.

The Training Division has initiated a Driver/Operator program for members of the call force to develop additional qualified apparatus operators. The program is being conducted on a weekly basis and will continue as an ongoing training initiative.

The Administrative Coordinator position was posted internally with an application deadline of **August 30, 2026**, and externally with an application deadline of **September 11, 2026**.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief John G. Kelley

**WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT
TREASURERS REPORT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING: August 27, 2026**

FISCAL YEAR END:

Real estate, personal property, tax title, committed betterments, and water liens have all been reconciled with the Town of Wareham.

Encumbrances have been completed

CBIZ, our auditing firm, has begun the preliminary FY26 testing. They were not here the Week of August 17th as scheduled, but we have uploaded multiple reports and reconciliations to their portal and they are working on the audit remotely. They are scheduled to be on site the Week of November 9th.

Odyssey Advisors has completed the District's OPEB valuation for FY26 and FY27. Attached is a summary of the results. The OPEB total liability increased over \$5M mainly due to the 30% increase in Medicare costs rather than the previously assumed 10% increase.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Sophia attended MCTA Annual Treasurer's school in Amherst August 10th through August 14th completing the first-year track for becoming certified as a Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer