

Wareham Fire District

Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes 10/08/2026

Meeting held at 2550 Cranberry Highway, Wareham MA

Prudential Committee Members:

Dean Decas, Joyce Bacchiocchi, George Barrett, Jonathan Rogers

Absent: Brian Crocker

Also present: Clerk Treasurer Wendy Lemieux, Chief John Kelley

5:33 PM Meeting called to order by Chairperson Dean Decas -

Correspondence – 5:33 PM

- None

Approval of Bills and Purchase Orders – 5:33 PM

- Motion by Joyce Bacchiocchi to approve purchase order to Cybercomm Communications Inc., install second dispatch center at Station 2, \$15,830.00. Second by Jonathan Rogers. This funding was included in an article from ADM 2022. It is tied into the Motorola project but is not part of the scope of that project. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 4-0-0
- Motion by Jonathan Rogers to approve purchase order to Couto Construction, Repair reseal and weatherproof coating of roof at Station 3, \$21,900.00. Second by George Barrett. Joyce Bacchiocchi asked if this price was in line with the amount expected when drafting the article, and Chief Kelley replied yes. George Barrett then asked Chief Kelley if this was a way to avoid the bidding rules. The Chief replied that no, this project was being handled in the same way as the ongoing work at Station 2, and that this was the first phase of work at Station 3. George Barrett then stated “appearance is everything and

- that is what it appeared to be". Vote: George Barrett – abstain, Dean Decas - yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 3-0-1.
- Motion by Joyce Bacchiocchi to approve a purchase order to MES Northeast Rescue Systems, Protective gear, \$58,641.00. Second by Dean Decas. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 4-0-0
 - Motion by Jonathan Rogers to approve a purchase order to Core & Main, Kennedy Gate Valve, \$3,494.69. Second by Dean Decas. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, 4-0-0.
 - Motion by Jonathan Rogers to approve payment to Benevides Plumbing and Mechanical, install drinking water fountain at Station 1, \$1,600.00. Second by Dean Decas. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, 4-0-0.
 - Motion by Joyce Bacchiocchi to approve payment to Magicleaners & Home Improvement, deep clean of office at 315 Main St, \$576.00. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, 4-0-0.

Minutes – Vote – 5:43 PM

- 09/21/26 Minutes
 - Jonathan Rogers expressed concern with the wording related to adjourning the meeting after the Special District Meeting.
 - Motion to approve minutes by Dean Decas, second by George Barrett, Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – abstain, 3-0-1.
- 09/24/26 Minutes
 - Minutes were edited to include “to return to open session” under meeting opening.
 - Motion to approve minutes as amended by Jonathan Rogers, second by George Barrett. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, 4-0-0.

Chief’s Report: Chief John Kelley – 5:49 PM

- See Attached
- The value of the AED’s and other equipment donated by the District Attorney’s office is approximately \$4,000.

Clerk Treasurer Report – Wendy Lemieux – 5:55 PM

- See Attached
- Free Cash has been certified by DLS. Several articles were recently funded by the Stabilization Fund at the Special District meeting, and now those funds may be replenished with Free Cash. Also, Wendy reminded the Committee that it is our goal to reserve 5% of the budget in Free Cash, which in this case would be approximately \$500,000.
- The Steering Committee of MMHG has voted to offer HPHC Medicare Enhance with Aetna Silver Scrip PDP as an additional plan option for Member Units retirees. Each Member Unit must decide if they will choose to offer this plan. Offering the Plan is at the discretion of the Prudential Committee and an official vote must be taken. Wendy stated that if we add this option none of the other options will be taken away from retired employees and no one will be forced to switch their plan. Motion to add this additional coverage made by George Barrett, second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – abstain, 3-0-1.

Discussion – Hiring Process for Second Assistant Engineer (Assistant Chief) – 6:02 PM

- Dean Decas and Jonathan Rogers met with Mark Morse of MMA Consulting regarding the process. The tentative date is November 5.
- There are five facets of the assessment center process: oral interviews, situational HR assessment, written assessment with defense, technical/fire scene assessment, and civic meeting exercise. There will also be short personal interviews conducted by the Prudential Committee. The price he quoted has not changed, and there are four applicants.

Prudential Committee Reports – 6:05 PM

Vehicle Policy

- Jonathan Rogers and Brian Crocker met with representatives of Local 2810 to discuss the proposed policy. There are some edits to be made, including the names of contracts. Jonathan will mark up the draft with the proposed changes. Local 2810 was generally supportive of the policy and suggested some minor wording changes. Their primary concern was that the District residency requirement could represent a change in working conditions.
- Jonathan had previously reached out to Joe McArdle and is still waiting to speak with him regarding the proper tax treatment and reporting process for District vehicle use. This is regardless of the implementation of the proposed vehicle policy.

Fire Station Study Committee – current opening on Committee – 6:09 PM

- There is currently an opening due to the resignation of a member associated with the Fire Department.
- Retired FF Ralph Braley has expressed interest in joining the committee, and that letter was shared with the Prudential Committee. Ralph has been attending the meetings regularly.
- Motion to appoint Ralph Braley to the Fire Station Study Committee by Dean Decas, second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, 4-0-0.
- Joyce Bacchiocchi thanked everyone that does attend and reminded everyone that the meetings are public and all are welcome.

Future Meeting Dates – 6:11

- The Prudential Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday November 19 will now be a Joint Meeting with the Board of Water Commissioners on Monday, November 23. There will be no meeting on November 19.
- The Assessment Center for the Second Assistant Engineer is tentatively scheduled for November 5.
- The Prudential Committee will tentatively meet on November 12 to conduct short interviews with the candidates for Second Assistant Engineer.

Public Comment – 6:16 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.

- No public comment.

October 8, 2026

Open Session

Any business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of meeting – 6:32 PM

- George Barrett asked that the Stabilization Fund be put on the next agenda, with a possible vote.

Adjourn – 6:32 PM

- Motion to adjourn by Joyce Bacchiocchi, second by George Barrett. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, 4-0-0.

Next scheduled meeting is October 22, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by Joyce Bacchiocchi, Clerk.

Chair *Dean Decas*

Vote Date 10/22/26

Clerk *Joyce Bacchiocchi*

Approve 4

Disapprove 0

Abstain 1 ^{BC}

Document List:

Chief's Report 10/08/26

Clerk Treasurer Report 10/08/26

Proposed District Vehicle Policy

Meeting minutes, 09/21/26 and 09/24/26

Chief's Report

October 8, 2026

Good afternoon,

Since our last meeting, several important matters and updates have taken place within the Wareham Fire Department.

Squad 1 has returned to service following the completion of repairs related to the pump issue. The apparatus has been returned to operational status and is once again available for emergency response.

The **Board of Engineers** met and voted to appoint Chief John G. Kelley, Office Manager Laurie Uva, and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Sophia Kelly to serve on the interview committee for the position of **Administrative Coordinator**. The committee will be responsible for conducting the interview process, evaluating the candidates, and making a recommendation for selection. The committee's recommendation will then be forwarded to the Board of Engineers for final approval.

Engine 1 is currently at the repair facility, where equipment is being installed and mounted in preparation for the apparatus to be placed into service. The installation process is progressing, and the Department will continue to monitor the work to ensure that the apparatus is properly equipped and ready for operational use.

Squad 3 has been delivered and officially accepted from **McGovern MHQ**. The final payment for the apparatus has also been completed, marking the conclusion of the acquisition process.

The **Station 2 roof project** has been completed and accepted. Firefighter Freitas has overseen the project and confirmed completion of the work. This project represents an important investment in maintaining and improving the Department's facilities and ensuring that our stations remain safe and functional for our members.

A **Command Staff meeting** was also held at Station 2 with all Career Officers in attendance. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss departmental operations, ongoing projects, staffing, and other matters affecting the day-to-day operation of the Fire Department. Continued communication among the Command Staff and Career Officers remains important to maintaining an effective and professional organization.

Assistant Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Haskell are currently on vacation and are expected to return next week.

I also contacted **Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz** regarding the Department's need for additional **Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)**. The AEDs were

needed to equip the Department's new and frontline apparatus, including Engine 1, Squad 1, and Car 6, as well as the training room at Station 2.

District Attorney Cruz was very supportive of this request and generously donated **four AEDs, along with an AED cabinet for Station 2.** In addition to the AED equipment, District Attorney Cruz also donated several **Stop the Bleed kits** to the Department. These items will provide our members with additional lifesaving resources and enhance our ability to respond effectively during medical emergencies and traumatic incidents.

With this generous donation, the Department has now been able to equip all of its frontline support vehicles and apparatus with an AED, as well as provide an AED for the training room at Station 2. This is a significant benefit to the Department and, most importantly, to the residents and visitors we serve.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz for his continued support of the Wareham Fire Department and for recognizing the importance of providing our firefighters and emergency personnel with the equipment necessary to protect our community. His generosity is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief John G. Kelley
Wareham Fire Department

WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT

TREASURERS REPORT

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING: October 8, 2026

ASSISTANT ENGINEER JOB POSTING:

We are in receipt of 4 applications for the Second Assistant Engineers position

FY28 BUDGET:

Plymouth County Retirement has issued the 2026 Actuarial Report with the FY28 and FY20 appropriations. The District's appropriation for FY28 is \$1,783,012.00 up 7.49% from FY27; and the FY29 appropriation is \$1,966,428.00 up 10.29% from FY27. A copy of the actuarial report is available for you to view on the Plymouth County Retirement Website.

PRIOR YEAR DEBTS:

Checks have been mailed and letters and emails sent to the Division of Unemployment to negotiate erroneous interest charges and fraudulent charges assessed to the District.

FREE CASH CERTIFICATION:

Free Cash has been certified in the amount of \$738,998.00.

TAX RATE RECAP:

District information is being uploaded to Division of Local Services in preparation for the setting of the tax rate. The assessors will be contacted to determine a proposed date for the

Tax Rate Classification Meeting which usually takes place in November.

MAYFLOWER MUNICIPAL HEALTH GROUP:

The Steering Committee of MMHG has voted to offer HPHC Medicare Enhance with Aetna Silver Scrip PDP as an additional plan option for Member Units retirees. Each Member Unit must decide if they will choose to offer this plan. Offering the Plan is at the discretion of the Prudential Committee and an official vote must be taken.

The Steering Committee has also proposed the following rates for calendar year 2027 while putting \$400,000.00 at risk from the MMHG trust fund.

Medex 2 with Blue Medicare Rx PDP	\$539.00
Medicare Blue PPO Freedom Advantage Rx	\$566.33
HPHC Medicare Enhance with Aetna SilverScript PDP	\$527.00

The Medex 2 rate represents a 7.37% increase over last year

The Medicare Blue PPO rate represents a 6.81% increase over last year.