Wareham Fire District

Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes 10/22/2026

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 Christopher Smith

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

Correspondence – 5:30 PM

- Legal newsletter

Prudential Committee member George Barrett requested to make a statement:

- George stated that at our last meeting we discussed a purchase order related to roof work at Station 3. He assumed that it would be a total project, and was surprised to see a bill for the roof work only. He stated that he handled it badly. He went home and checked online and found that the limit for such a purchase was increased to $150,000. He also learned that FF Dan Freitas had done a lot of work on this project. He apologized and hopes that his apology for his comments at our last meeting will be accepted. He stated that he acted badly and had a knee jerk reaction.

Approval of Bills and Purchase Orders – 5:32 PM

- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve purchase order to McDuffy and Son Paving, pave and mill trench at 2739 Cranberry Highway, $4,500.00. Second by George Barrett. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker - yes. 5-0-0

- Motion by Jonathan Rogers to approve payment to Clifford & Kenny, July 2026 legal expense, $1,812.50. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker - yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve payment to Hart Insurance Agency, add 2025 Pierce Engine effective 09/23/26, $2,087.00 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 payment to Wareham Police Department, police detail at SDM 09/21/26, $356.40. 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 payment to Home Depot Credit Services, closet door repair at Station 2 (to be reimbursed by Comm of MA), $382.92. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker - yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve payment to Couto Construction, labor for closet door repair at Station 2, $480.00. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker - yes. 5-0-0

Correspondence –
Chair Decas stated that he has an additional item under Correspondence. Assistant Chief Patrick Haskell has notified the Chair that he would like to schedule a negotiation for his upcoming contract renewal on 07/01/27. Chair Decas responded to this email and this negotiation will be scheduled.

Minutes – Vote – 5:40 PM

- 10/08/26 Minutes
  - Motion to approve minutes by Jonathan Rogers, second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – abstain. 4-0-1.

Chief's Report: Chief John Kelley – 5:41 PM

- See Attached
- The interviews for the Administrative Coordinator will be held in early November.
- Regarding the repairs at Station 3: While evaluating the building, additional spots requiring attention were discovered. Chief Kelley stated that these repairs will be within the proposed budget for the project.
- There is a firefighter entering the MA Firefighting Career Recruit Training program, and his expected graduation date is mid-December.

Clerk Treasurer Report – Wendy Lemieux – 5:46 PM

- See Attached

HR Professional, potential vote – 5:54 PM

- The Chair states that he has been advised to engage an outside HR professional as a conflict exists. Motion by Dean Decas to engage an outside HR professional and direct labor counsel to take any action relative thereto. Second by Brian Crocker. Dean Decas -yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, George Barrett - abstain. 4-0-1

Discussion and possible vote – Replenish Stabilization Fund – 5:49 PM (out of order)

- At the recent Special District Meeting there were articles that were funded by the Stabilization Fund. George Barrett asked that we discuss the replenishment of the Stabilization Fund with Free Cash. This would be done at the next District Meeting.
- The Committee discussed the importance of maintaining adequate reserves in both the Stabilization Fund and Free Cash, with target reserve levels of 5–10% of the District's budget. Maintaining sufficient reserves is important for the District's financial stability and bond rating.
- Motion by George Barrett to make a commitment to restore the funds expended out of Stabilization Fund at the Special District Meeting in September 2026 from Free Cash at the next District Meeting (April 2027).
- Second by Brian Crocker. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker - yes. 5-0-0

Prudential Committee Reports – 6:05 PM

Vehicle Policy

- Jonathan Rogers provided an update on his discussions with Joe McArdle's firm regarding assistance in determining the proper tax treatment of District vehicle use and establishing a process with the Clerk/Treasurer's office to track and report any applicable taxable personal use. The firm is evaluating whether it can provide this assistance. CBIZ, the District's auditor, was identified as another potential resource for advisory services. This process is necessary regardless of whether the proposed vehicle policy is adopted
- Joyce Bacchiocchi asked about job descriptions in Section 8 of the policy.
- The issue of residency still exists.
- The Committee discussed the residency requirement for authorized take-home vehicles. Retaining the proposed District residency requirement could require impact bargaining. Alternatively, changing the requirement to a 15-mile radius, consistent with existing contract language, was discussed as an option that would not require further bargaining.
- Dean Decas asked whether mileage documentation could be required when a District vehicle is used for outside employment. Jonathan Rogers clarified that the proposed policy allows for mileage reporting requirements when appropriate, but does not mandate mileage logs in all circumstances.
- Chief Kelley stated that he would like his questions about taxation that he raised previously to be answered. Dean Decas stated that those points had been addressed.
- Jonathan would like to see the Committee vote on this policy at the next meeting.

Fire Station Study Committee – update

- This committee has been meeting monthly, and reviewing relevant materials. This includes past studies, RFP's, and other reports.
- There is an RFP being created by members FF Matt Bennett and Roger Blank. It is the intent of the Committee to present this draft document to the Prudential Committee at the next meeting, 11/5/26.
- Jonathan Rogers asked what buildings are included in the RFP. This would include all fire stations, including headquarters at 315 Main St.
- FF Matt Bennett stated that it would also include 2550 Cranberry Highway, as this is where the mechanic's shop is.

Public Comment – 6:13 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.

- Interim Asst Chief Chris Smith thanked George Barrett for his apology earlier in the meeting.
- Victoria Rogers asked about the discussion of agenda items during public comment. Chair Decas will attempt to make that more clear during his statement.

Any business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of meeting – 6:16 PM

- None

Adjourn – 6:16 PM

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

Next scheduled meeting is November 5, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by Joyce Bacchiocchi, Clerk.

Chair Ellen Jolleen **Vote Date** 11/12/26

Clerk Joyce Bard **Approve** 5

Disapprove 0

Abstain 0

Document List:

Chief's Report 10/22/26
Clerk Treasurer Report 10/22/26
Proposed District Vehicle Policy
Meeting minutes, 10/08/2026

Chief's Report

October 22, 2026

Good afternoon,

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

Squad 1 – Pump Issue

Squad 1 has experienced another issue with its pump. I have contacted the dealer directly and requested that a technician respond to our location so we can demonstrate the problem firsthand and assist with identifying the cause and determining the appropriate corrective action.

Board of Engineers

The Board of Engineers met today to discuss matters related to the Administrative Coordinator position, as well as several operational concerns affecting the department.

New Engine 1

New Engine 1 is currently undergoing work by the department mechanic, including maintenance and the installation of equipment.

Car 5 – Fire Prevention

Car 5, the Fire Prevention vehicle, was temporarily placed out of service due to a fuel-related issue. The vehicle was brought to the dealer for repairs, and the issue has been corrected. Car 5 has since been returned to service.

Apparatus Annual Pump Testing

Annual pump testing was conducted by a third-party vendor. All apparatus completed the required testing and successfully passed.

Station 3 Building Project

The metal roof portion of the Station 3 project has been sealed, and that phase of the work is complete. The next phase involves addressing the rubber roof. Firefighter Freitas has advised that there may be deteriorated or rotted sections beneath the existing roofing material. Once the rubber roof is removed, the underlying conditions will be assessed, and we will be advised of any additional work required.

Live Fire Training Preparation

A department training drill was conducted in preparation for the live fire training scheduled to begin on November 1, 2026. This exercise will involve the full department and is intended to ensure personnel are prepared for the upcoming training.

Personnel Update – Firefighter Return to Duty and Academy Enrollment

The Department has received notification that the firefighter who was previously out on leave under M.G.L. c. 111F has been medically cleared to return to full duty. The firefighter has also secured a position in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Career Recruit Training Program at the Stow campus, with a scheduled start date of November 2, 2026.

All required paperwork and administrative arrangements for the firefighter's reenrollment have been completed. The employee has been placed on administrative leave pending the start of the academy program.

Fire Prevention Annual Inspections

The Fire Prevention Division has completed approximately 75% of its annual inspections. The division remains ahead of schedule and anticipates completing the remaining inspections in the near future.

Public Education and Fire Extinguisher Training

The Public Safety Educator has completed the annual fire safety education program for all local preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools.

In addition, Fire Prevention conducted in-service training for school cafeteria workers, which included hands-on fire extinguisher instruction using live fire. This training provided participants with practical knowledge and experience in the proper use of fire extinguishers and the appropriate response to a potential fire emergency within their facilities.

Station 2 Touch View Project

The Station 2 Touch View project continues to move forward and is nearing the installation phase. All required electrical work has been completed, and the project is progressing toward the next stage.

Respectfully submitted,

John G. Kelley
Chief of Department
Wareham Fire Department

WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT
TREASURERS REPORT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING: October 22, 2026

PRIOR YEAR DEBTS:
To date, no response has been received from the MA Division of Unemployment regarding forgiveness of interest and penalties on erroneous interest, penalties, and fraudulent charges.

TAX RATE RECAP:
I spoke with Jacqui Nichols today, Pamela Taylor has been appointed the new Director or Assessing for the Town of Wareham, this is her first week in the office. The Town has not submitted property values to the state for certification yet. Upon receiving certification, she will contact me and let me know when we should schedule the Tax Rate Classification Hearing.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR RETIREES AGE 65 AND OVER BEGINS NOVEMBER 1ST
Notifications will be emailed to all eligible retirees next week and they will have the option of changing plans effective January 2027.
Three plans will be offered:
BCBS Medex 2 with Blue Medicare RX PDP
Medicare Blue PPO Freedom Advantage RX
HPHC Medicare Enhance with Aetna Silver Script PDP

FY26 AUDIT:
The audit firm will be at the District office the week of November 9th to continue working on the FY26 Audit