

Wareham Fire District

Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes 06/11/2026

Meeting held at 2550 Cranberry Highway, Wareham MA

Prudential Committee Members:

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

Also present: Interim Assistant Chief Chris Smith, Assistant Chief Pat Haskell, Clerk
Treasurer Wendy Lemieux

5:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chairperson Dean Decas -

All members present.

Correspondence – 5:00

- Election ballot from Plymouth County OPEB Trust Program, Town or School Administrator committee member for a term from 07/01/26 to 06/30/29. Motion to vote for Erin Orcutt of the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District as the Town or School Administrator to the board made by Joyce Bacchiocchi, second by George Barrett. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0.

Approval of Bills and Purchase Orders – 5:01

- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve a Purchase Order to Ferguson Waterworks, 3 Eclipse stainless steel sampling stations, \$4,576.52. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve a Purchase Order to Madigan Lime Corporation, Bulk Hydrated Lime for Maple Springs treatment plant,

\$12,127.50. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0

- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve a Purchase Order to Stewart's Power Equipment, Exmark Quest Deck 22HP mower with Bagger, \$4,948.99. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0
Jonathan Rogers asked whether the lawn mower/bagger could be purchased separately in a way that would avoid or reduce the finance charge. Jonathan agreed to follow up with Roy Maher regarding this.
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve payment to Home Depot Credit Services, \$160.51, Station 1 Floors. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve payment to Home Depot Credit Services, \$15.76, Station 1 Floors. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve payment to Margaret Ishihara, \$1068.75, Review Warrants for Annual and Special District meeting and review Motorola lease. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve payment to American Arbitration Association, \$197.50, initial Admin fee. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve payment to Wareham Week, \$272.00, advertisement for surplus property. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 5-0-0
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Minutes – Vote – 5:12 PM

- Minutes of 05/28/26 – No vote, revisions requested by Jonathan Rogers, revised minutes will be voted on at next meeting 06/25/26.
- Minutes of 06/03/26 - Motion to approve by Jonathan Rogers, second by Dean Decas. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – abstain, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – abstain, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 3-0-2

Chief's Report: Interim Assistant Chief Chris Smith – 5:15

- See Attached
- During the Chief's Report, Prudential Committee member Brian Crocker inquired about grant money that may be available to replace the department boat. Firefighter Jamie McIntosh was recognized by the Chair, and explained that the Harbormaster had conducted much research into grant funds available for that purpose, and that the process was complicated and there did not seem to be funds available.

Clerk Treasurer Report – Wendy Lemieux – 5:24 PM

- See Attached
- There was discussion regarding the Motorola project cost increase and cash flow implications to the change in interest rate since the original Motorola quote. The Clerk Treasurer confirmed the current terms were acceptable if paid upfront, but noted that if the contract weren't signed by July 1 the interest rate could increase again.

Revote Interim Second Assistant Engineer Contract – 5:33 PM

- In Section 8 of the contract, the weekly salary has been removed. There are no other changes. Motion to approve by Jonathan Rogers, second Dean Decas, Motion to approve by Jonathan Rogers, second by Dean Decas. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – abstain, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Brian Crocker – abstain, Jonathan Rogers – yes. 3-0-2

Administrative Process Review – Purchasing and Payroll 5:34 PM

- Discussion regarding the need to review all administrative processes in order to plan next steps. This will be a discussion between all departments, including Wareham Fire Department, Wareham Water Department, and the Clerk Treasurer's office. This review will include software that is currently being used to be sure there is no overlap.
- The Chair appointed a committee of two, Jonathan Rogers and Joyce Bacchiocchi, to conduct this review and bring back findings and recommendations to the Prudential Committee.

District Vehicle Policy Review – 5:38 PM

- Further discussion related to use of district vehicles.
- It is agreed that a districtwide vehicle policy should be developed as soon as possible. There is currently no policy in place.

- Interim Assistant Chief Smith discussed examples of district vehicle use, including going to the gym prior to a shift or reporting to an evening meeting.
- Kathy Bird asked about personal use language in the Chief's contracts.
- Bob Haskell asked about insurance issues if a responder is in an accident while returning to the station. The Chair redirected the conversation back to the posted agenda item.
- The Clerk Treasurer has shared several different sources of relevant information.
- The Chair asked for volunteers to work as a subcommittee to develop a policy which will then be reviewed by the whole Prudential Committee. Brian Crocker and Jonathan Rogers will be the two Pru Comm members to work on that.
- Citizen Gary Bowman asked about the vehicle policies of the Police Department.

Public Comment – 5:45 PM

- Firefighter Matt Bennett: Asked about the possibility of having meetings recorded. The Chair stated that it could be put on a future agenda. Also, he stated that minutes of previous meetings did not accurately reflect his statements.
- Retired Assistant Chief Mark Rogers: Expressed his thanks for the ceremony on 6/7 and the plaque he received. He also noted that he had not been aware of personal use of WFD vehicles.
- Mark Rogers also inquired about 315 Main St. Is the Fire Department a tenant? It was stated that the property belongs to Wareham Fire District.

Adjourn – 5:54 PM

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

Next scheduled meeting is June 25, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by Joyce Bacchiocchi, Clerk.

June 11, 2026

Open Session

Chair Don Lewis Vote Date 6/25/26

Clerk Joyce Bushnell Approve 4

Disapprove 0

No Brian

Abstain 0

Chief's Report Prudential Committee Meeting

06/11/26

Since our last meeting on June 3rd we have been very busy. Our members responded 93 calls for service. (Captain Brundage with a compliment from Shift 1 and 3 had 23 calls in a 24 hour period)

On Sunday we celebrated Chief Rogers retirement, and it was a perfect send off for a great firefighter and friend.

Also, on Sunday we also supported the Harvest Triathlon by having members from our dive team on the water and shore ready to respond if the need was to arise.

We have been working this week to implement procedures and reporting for paying department bills and generating Fire Department payroll. We have been working closely with the clerk treasurer's office to ensure we are compliant with the statutory requirements of Municipal Finance.

During this recent transition it has become quite obvious that IMC is antiquated for payroll and budgeting this accounting system has been with us for over 20 years. I for one would suggest a unified budget tracking solution for this upcoming fiscal year.

On Wednesday we delivered the Mechanic's service vehicle to McGovern HQ for relettering per the submitted specifications. We were able to receive the New Car 6 (fire prevention truck) which is

now at station 1. We will be working to have this truck placed into service over the next few days.

We had our monthly Gosnold Treatment facility meeting this week and they are planning on admitting their first patients on June 30th. We have been warned and are prepared for an uptick in calls for service. Their staff have been forthcoming and want to work with our emergency services providers. We have monthly meetings scheduled to address the issues we may encounter.

Sail Boston 2026 is this July and we will be seeing a day of tall ships traversing our waters on July 8-9th. We expect a very high impact couple of days on the water and have been attending preparedness meetings with the Army Corp, Coast Guard and local agencies.

AFG. We had a brief discussion at our previous meeting about the possibility of having a special district meeting to fund our 10 percent share, but I wanted to elaborate on what we will be applying for. The grant is separated into several different grant categories that we can apply for. The Health and Wellness grant program we will be requesting funds to improve our fitness area. We will be submitting a similar request to our last attempt on this but will be adjusting the language and equipment to be more firefighter specific.

Apparatus section we wish we could try for a marine vessel but it is not an allowed request so we will not be requesting anything at this time.

Training section we will be requesting funds to support our Emergency Vehicle Operators program to include sending all our career members to a training facility which would include a skid school.

Equipment section we will be requesting funds to augment our SCBA program.

I expect the district match if all items are awarded to be under 25K.

Finally, the Surplus equipment auction will be held at Station 2 from 9-3 on Sunday. I will be working with our procurement officer Laurie Uva on Sunday to ensure that the sealed bid auction follows all the requirements of Section 5 of Chapter 30B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Smith
Acting Assistant Chief

WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT

TREASURERS REPORT

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING: June 11, 2026

NEW BUSINESS:

RETIREMENT:

On June 7th Acting Chief Rogers retired from the Department after 49 years of service. It was my pleasure to work with Mark and I wish him well in his much deserved retirement.

SWEARING IN:

On Sunday, June 7th it was my pleasure to swear in Christopher Smith as the Interim Second Assistant Engineer.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Acting Assistant Chief Smith has filed a Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest with the District. Advising that FF Brendan Lacourse works as his employee at Wareham Tower Group and Acting Chief Smith will recuse himself from any decisions, votes or actions regarding the promotion or discipline of Brendan Lacourse to that there will be no appearance of a conflict of interest.

Assistant Chief Haskell provided my office with a Client Advisory Notification from the Law Office of Mead, Talerman and Costa,

LLC regarding New Conflict of Interest Law Exposure for Fire Chiefs and other Department Heads Payroll and Budget Signoffs. This advisory essentially states that any department head signing off on weekly payroll that includes their own salary must complete and submit a Section 19(b)(1) Disclosure. I will have the appropriate parties complete these Disclosures and present them to the Board for determination at the next meeting.

MOTOROLA LEASE:

A proposed Lease has been received from Motorola. The lease was sent to Attorney Margaret Ishihara for her review. Attorney Ishihara had several comments and the document with her concerns was returned to Rebecca at Motorola. Motorola made some revisions based on Atty Ishihara's comments and the revised document is back with the attorney for continued review. In addition to the lease we have received a "proposal" which will be come part of the lease. The dollar value is \$2,005,000, a slightly less than the original amount proposed prior to District meeting.

It was also requested that the District be given the option of making the first payment at the signing of the lease rather than in arrears. This would save the District a considerable amount of interest. The proposal gives the District both options however due to an increase in the interest rate, option 1 to pay in arrears exceeds the amount appropriated at District meeting.

FY26 AUDIT

CBIZ will begin the preliminary testing for the FY26 Audit the week of August 17th and the field work will be the week of November 9th.

Hart Insurance will attend at the June 25th Pru Comm Meeting to present the Insurance renewals for FY27. I have spoken with Erica at Hart insurance, the renewals for VFIS and Workman's Comp are in and look good based on the mods. They are still waiting on a quote for the fuel tanks. The property insurance renewal has spiked due to the large Tahoe loss in the amount of \$130K

BUDGETS

Revenue / Expense Reports through this week are in your packets. To date:

Pru Comm Budget 89.85% expended

Clerk/Treasurer 81.18 % expended

Mechanic 85.29% expended

Fire Dept. 92.09% expended (Overtime is \$45,854.67 in the red)

Water Dept 76.11% expended

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing new to report on the status of the District Handbook under review at Clifford and Kenny