July 9, 2026 Open Session

Wareham Fire District

Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes 07/09/2026

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, Interim Assistant Chief Chris Smith

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

Correspondence – 5:30 PM

- Legal newsletter

Approval of Bills and Purchase Orders – 5:31 PM

- Motion by Brian Crocker to approve a payment to Margaret Ishihara, $843.75, legal fees related to review of Motorola lease. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Joyce Bacchiocchi to approve a payment to Home Depot Credit Services, $29.92, lockers at Station 4. Second by Brian Crocker. 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 Lowes, fasteners, $45.42. 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 a payment to Clifford & Kenny LLP, legal fees April 2026, $937.50. 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 a payment to Home Depot, $1,563.99, Elkay Drinking Fountain. 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 a Purchase Order to Apollo Safety, On Site Full Service Preventative Maintenance Contract, $5,995.00. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Joyce Bacchiocchi to approve a Purchase Order to Couto Construction, $49,144.74, to repair, reseal and weather proof coating of roof at Station 2. 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 IPS, $97,933.00 for 10 X# Pro SCBA 5500 PSI. 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 Alt Tech Group, $40,417.68 to provide IT Support Managed Services, FY 27. This bill will be split with the Water Department, the breakdown is $3248.51 monthly for the Water Department and $119.63 for WFD. 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 a payment to Clifford & Kenny LLP for legal fees, May 2026, $625.00. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- Motion by Joyce Bacchiocchi to authorize the Chair to approve payment to Clifford & Kenny LLP for June 2026 legal services if the bill is received by 07/16/26. Second by Brian Crocker. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0

- The Chair introduced approval of three purchase orders that are related to the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe and related equipment to replace the vehicle known as C1 which was deemed a total loss.
    - Please see statements attached from Chair Dean Decas and Interim Assistant Chief Chris Smith.
    - Jonathan Rogers noted that the Purchase Orders must have two signatures from the Board of Engineers in order to proceed. There are two signatures (Asst Chief Chris Smith signed at this time). Jonathan also noted that this was not on the agenda and that instead it was a previously tabled item and that he thought it should be a separate agenda item. The Clerk Treasurer stated that her review/signoff

process had not been completed prior to the meeting. Jonathan Rogers objected to the vote being taken. The Chair noted that they are purchase orders being taken up under the approval of bills and purchase orders and the vote was taken.

- A motion was made by Brian Crocker to approve a Purchase Order to McGovern MHQ Inc., $55,420.65, 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – no, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – no, Brian Crocker – yes. 3-2-0
- A motion was made by Brian Crocker to approve a Purchase Order to McGovern MHQ Inc., $18,839.00, Transfer/swap equipment to new 2026 Tahoe. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – no, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – no, Brian Crocker – yes. 3-2-0
- A motion was made by Brian Crocker to approve a Purchase Order to Applied Communications Svcs Inc., $12,220.95, Radio equipment for 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe. Second by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – no, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – no, Brian Crocker – yes. 3-2-0
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Minutes – Vote – 5:58 PM

- Minutes of 06/25/26 – Motion by Jonathan Rogers to approve minutes of meeting on 06/25/26, second by Dean Decas. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – abstain, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – abstain. 3-0-2.

Chief's Report: Interim Assistant Chief Chris Smith 6:00 PM

- See Attached
- FF Matt Bennett will advise regarding the ship date for new engine.

Clerk Treasurer Report – Wendy Lemieux – 6:03 PM

- See Attached

Discussion and Possible Vote – Carryover of unused vacation time 6:07 PM

- Chief John Kelley – The Chair was asked by John Kelley to clarify how the Prudential Committee would like to handle vacation time that is accrued but unused. This accrued time is not eligible for payout.
- The other option is to allow carry over, which will require a vote of the Prudential Committee.

- Jonathan Rogers asked about the meaning of 111F leave and whether the vacation time being discussed related to that leave. The Chair and Interim Assistant Chief Smith confirmed.
- The discussion also included the Chief's contractual carryover provision and whether legal clarification was appropriate.
- Motion by Joyce Bacchiocchi to allow Chief Kelley to carry over 20 vacation days to next year if still unused at 12/31/26. Second by Jonathan Rogers. Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Dean Decas – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, George Barrett – abstain. 4-0-1.

- Clerk Treasurer Wendy Lemieux "lost" 88 hours of vacation time at 06/30/26. Her contract only allowed 2 weeks to be carried over.
- Motion by Joyce Bacchiocchi to allow CT Wendy Lemieux to carry over her remaining 88 hours of vacation at 06/30/26. Second by Brian Crocker. Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Dean Decas – yes, Brian Crocker – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, George Barrett – yes. 5-0-0.

Discussion – Clerical Assistant and Office Manager – currently vacant - 6:30 PM

- The Chair collected proposed job descriptions and duties from Chief Kelley, Assistant Chief Pat Haskell and Interim Assistant Chief Chris Smith.
- Jonathan Rogers stated that the duties as currently written did not appear to justify two full-time roles. The immediate hire should focus on filling identified gaps in the Fire Department's administrative processes.
- Brian Crocker stated that there was to be support for Fire Prevention.
- Joyce Bacchiocchi stated she does not believe one of the positions needs to be an "Office Manager"
- Chris Smith stated he does believe there is a need for two positions in that office.
- Wendy Lemieux stated there is discussion to be had regarding the offices working together.
- Chris Smith stated he believes there should be a purchasing agent, as much of that administrative work has shifted to Firefighters. Their schedule does not always allow follow up in a timely manner.

- Jonathan Rogers and Joyce Bacchiocchi will review the proposals and work to create a job description / posting by the next meeting. This aligns with the work regarding the administrative processes.

Discussion – recording of Prudential Committee meetings – 6:50 PM

- Joyce shared an email from Jon Day at Wareham Media regarding prices to record and air meetings. Joyce will follow up with Jon regarding the need for more microphones and report back at our next meeting.
- Jonathan will investigate options using Microsoft Teams which would cost less, and supports recording meetings to improve accuracy and transparency.
- The Chair raised concerns regarding recording and storage costs and discussed waiting until the next budget cycle.

Prudential Committee Reports –

District Vehicle Policy 6:58 PM

- Jonathan Rogers reviewed the policy. The policy will be looked at by the Board of Engineers and the Water Commissioners, and we will possibly move forward with a vote at our next meeting.

Review of Administrative / Business Process 7:13 PM

- Jonathan Rogers met with Assistant Chief Pat Haskell and Interim Assistant Chief Chris Smith. Right now the focus is on the Fire Department but it will encompass all departments.
- Also noted that the website must be brought up to ADA compliance by April 2027.

Second Assistant Engineer – job description and job posting 7:17 PM

- The job description and posting has been reviewed by the attorney. That will be shared before the next meeting for review and possible vote.
- There is no update on the posting of this position.
- Brian Crocker suggested that we should move forward with the posting of the Second Assistant Engineer position as soon as possible.

Public Comment – 7:20 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.

- Mark Rogers made a statement that is attached.
- Firefighter Matt Bennett: He is in favor of allowing the Chief to use his accrued time and not carry it over. Regarding the vehicle policy, he would like to see all command vehicles be painted the same, including the new C1. Matt questions the Prudential Committee's decision to have the vehicle policy reviewed by legal counsel. Matt would also like to offer a huge thank you to Interim Assistant Chief Smith and to the Clerk Treasurer's office for all of the work they are doing, going above and beyond.
- Interim Chief Chris Smith: Thank you for holding the AC position open and not going forward so that all Captains have an opportunity to take the test.
- Retired FF Ralph Braley: He spoke about his own experience after being injured on duty, and his experience with 111F leave. He also stated that the District could save money by having a standard light package on vehicles.

Any business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of meeting – 7:33 PM

- Joyce Bacchiocchi shared that the meeting of the Fire Station Study Committee on July 14 was cancelled due to no quorum. The next meeting will be on Tuesday August 11. There has been a resignation of a member who was an employee of the Fire Department, so we will be seeking to fill that opening.

Adjourn – 7:35 PM

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

Next scheduled meeting is July 22, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by Joyce Bacchiocchi, Clerk.

Chair ____________ **Vote Date** 8/6/26

Clerk ____________ **Approve** 5

Disapprove 0

Abstain 0

Statement by Chair Dean Decas, Prudential Committee Meeting 07/09/2026

I would like to provide a brief statement regarding the replacement of Command Vehicle C1 so that the facts surrounding this matter are clear and accurately reflected in the record.

Following an incident that resulted in significant damage to Command Vehicle C1, the vehicle was evaluated by the District's insurance carrier and ultimately deemed a total loss. The District received insurance proceeds specifically intended for the replacement of the vehicle.

Recognizing the need to maintain operational readiness and ensure continuity of command operations within the Fire Department, the Prudential Committee tasked the Fire Chief with the replacement of C1. The Committee's intent was not to circumvent or violate General Order 2025-03, but rather to facilitate a timely and seamless replacement of an essential command vehicle using funds provided by the District's insurance carrier.

The Fire Chief undertook this responsibility and proceeded with identifying a replacement vehicle. However, the procurement process outlined in General Order 2025-03 was not followed prior to the purchase order being presented for approval. As a result, when the purchase order was presented to the Board of Engineers, the Board declined to sign it because they believed the requirements of General Order 2025-03 had not been satisfied.

Since that time, numerous discussions have taken place among the parties involved regarding the appropriate path forward. Throughout these discussions, consideration was given not only to the interests of the District but also to the vendor, who has been extremely patient and accommodating during this process.

After careful consideration and in the interest of moving forward, the Board of Engineers has agreed to sign the purchase order, allowing the replacement of C1 to proceed.

While this matter has now been resolved, it serves as an important reminder to all District employees, officers, and officials. Policies, procedures, and General Orders exist to provide consistency, accountability, and transparency in District operations. Regardless of the circumstances or intentions involved, it is essential that all employees be familiar with and adhere to established policies and General Orders. When questions arise regarding the proper process, guidance should be sought before action is taken.

The Prudential Committee appreciates the cooperation of all parties involved in bringing this matter to a resolution and remains committed to ensuring that District policies and procedures are followed moving forward.

Statement by Interim Assistant Chief Christopher Smith, Prudential Committee Meeting 07/09/2026

Statement re:C-1 Vehicle

Signing this document has been the toughest decision of my career. To me this vehicle represents everything that is wrong within our Fire District.

- It represents a lack of leadership.... not following our General Orders but expecting everyone else to, does not send a clear message. This board could have addressed this and avoided putting me into this difficult position.
- It represents a lack of accountability,,,Why aren't our trucks Red and recognizable as asked by members of this board? Why hasn't this board created a policy for department vehicles. This should include what they look like.
- It represents a lack of fiscal responsibility...we have purchasing requirements in place to ensure proper approval. The items being purchased for these vehicles need to be reviewed and approved by department heads. There are needs and wants with this type of purchase and it is our job as Chief Officers to ensure the needs are met.

I applaud Chief Rogers and Haskell for standing their ground in refusing to sign a major purchase that they didn't have the opportunity to review, provide input and approve or deny in the best interest of the district.

My biggest fear is that when I sign this document it becomes another item that just goes away. It is time we start looking at what is best for the Fire District and not individuals.

Chief's Report

07/9/2026

Since our last meeting we have responded to 132 calls for service.

Today we provided M-4 to assist the Harbormaster in protecting our waterways with the expectance of increased Marine activity in our local waters due to the Tall Ships traveling through the Cape Cod Canal.

We have been working closely with the Clerk/Treasurer's office to finish out FY2026 and start FY2027.

We started as of July 1st with the contractual requirement of 5-man minimum staffing.

The Board of Engineers has offered Call FF Kyle Geggett the position of career firefighter and he has accepted and signed his offer letter. This is contingent upon a full-time vacancy as well as completing his pre-employment requirements and graduating from the Career Fire academy.

The weekend of the 4th was relatively quiet as the rain moved in just after 9:30 and quickly quieted down all the fireworks.

We have posted for a BOE meeting on July 15th at 10am at 273 Main St.

WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT
TREASURERS REPORT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING: July 9, 2026

FIRE DEPT:
The office continues to work closely with Asst. Chief Smith to ensure FD payroll and Fire and Mechanic bills are being paid

MOTOROLA: Fully executed documents have been received from Motorola; lease payment In the amount of $324,311.42 is due on July 30th. Kick off meeting is being scheduled with Maribel Lopez who will be the project manager.

BUDGETS:
Revenue / Expense Reports on this date reflect:

Pru Comm Budget 90.26% expended
Clerk/Treasurer 86.57 % expended
Mechanic 92.6% expended
Fire Dept. 98.02% expended (Overtime is $94,851.17 in the red)
Water Dept 88.70% expended

FISCAL YEAR END:
The final FY26 Vendor Warrant will be processed on July 16th; encumbrances will be processed after that date, and the process of closing the books will begin.

We have not received the June bill from Clifford and Kenny, which was promised for today, funds cannot be encumbered for payment because the Pru Comm budget for legal expenses is in the red. How would you like to proceed if the invoice arrives prior to July 16th since the Board will not be meeting again until the 22nd?

DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUE:

We received a reimbursable Bill from the Division of Unemployment this week in the amount of $70,533.57. $31,896.47 in charges date back to 2009 – 2020 and were erroneous charges that were resolved in 2020. The additional $38,637.10 are charges we are being assessed from June 2024 to April 2025 for an employee who left the employ of the District. This is the first bill we have received for these charges, and I am actively disputing them with the DUA.

VACATION: I will be out of the office beginning tomorrow and returning on Monday July 20th. Sophia will be in the office from 7:30 to 3:30 daily and I'm confident that she will do a great job in my absence.

Statement by Retired Assistant Chief Mark Rogers, Prudential Committee Meeting 07/09/2026, Public Comment

I would like to raise a concern regarding accountability within the department. Policies and procedures are essential to maintaining safety, consistency, and public trust. How can we expect all employees to follow these standards if members of leadership are not held to the same expectations when those standards are not followed? Accountability must apply fairly and consistently at every level of the department.