

Wareham Fire District

Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes 08/06/2026

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 Advantage Truck Raynham, ECU repair and associated costs, \$3,618.59. 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 purchase order to Springbrook, software expense, \$7,546.59. 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 Mann's Heating and Air Conditioning, bunk room mini split repair, \$320.00. 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 Capital One Trade Credit (Aubuchon), Super Weed and Lawn Kill, \$31.99. Second by Jonathan Rogers.

Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0

Minutes – Vote – 5:37 PM

- 07/09/26 – Motion to approve by Jonathan Rogers, Second by Brian Crocker. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- 07/22/26 – Motion to approve as corrected by Jonathan Rogers, Second by Brian Crocker. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0

Chief's Report: Chief John Kelley – 5:38 PM

- See Attached
- Chief Kelley congratulated Andy Rowley on his retirement after 31 years, and Chair Dean Decas wished him well on behalf of the Committee.

Clerk Treasurer Report – Wendy Lemieux – 5:44 PM

- See Attached

Special District Meeting – Approval of Articles – Vote 5:46 PM

- Wendy Lemieux reviewed the process for the Special District Meeting. Free cash has not been certified so all articles would be funded by the Stabilization Fund. At the Pru Comm meeting on 8/27 the warrant will be signed off on. The warrant will be published on 9/3 for a meeting date of 9/14.
- Property maintenance is a priority, specifically at Station 3 which is in need of repair. Chief Kelley was asked by Jonathan Rogers whether the proposed station 3 work was intended to be a temporary solution or part of a long term solution. Chief Kelley indicated that Station 3 remains operationally needed but the specifics of any future renovation or long term plan remain unclear.
- The Clerk Treasurer is not able to speak to DUA about the outstanding debt until the principal and interest is paid. This amount will be included on the Special District Warrant. It may be necessary to fund the unemployment trust account in the future for unanticipated expenses.
- Other articles will be related to Fire Department grants.

Second Assistant Engineer – Job Description and Posting – Vote

- Clean copies of the description and posting were provided. Chief Kelley suggested new language to be included in the posting. Jonathan Rogers pointed out that the language was included, although in a different format, but agreed to add it. Jonathan also pointed out that the waiver provision and additional language should be removed.
- AC Chris Smith asked for a point of order – he does not want to have a delay in voting on the posting.
- AC Pat Haskell asked if we were still waiting to post. Per Dean Decas, yes we are.
- Motion made by Brian Crocker to approve the Job Posting with corrections. Second by Jonathan Rogers.
- Jonathan Rogers pointed out that we need to have a pay range to add to the posting. Wendy Lemieux stated that the approved amount in the budget for base salary is \$108,649. Jonathan stated that it needs to be a range. It was agreed that the range would be \$100,000 to \$108,649 base pay per year. Jonathan also stated that the job description should be approved because the posting directly references it.
- Motion rescinded by Brian Crocker, second rescinded by Jonathan Rogers.
- Motion to approve amended posting to include agreed upon pay range by Joyce Bacchiocchi. Second by Brian Crocker. Dean Decas -yes, George Barrett – yes, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yes, Jonathan Rogers – yes, Brian Crocker – yes. 5-0-0
- The job description with corrections and additional language will be voted on at our next meeting.

Prudential Committee Reports – 6:18 PM**Vehicle Policy – possible vote**

- AC Smith states that if personal errands and parades will be allowed then that language should be stricken so there is no interpretation needed.
- AC Haskell states that over time changes will be made to the policy and some might not even know it exists.
- AC Chris Smith would like to strike in Section 9 the language “or general purpose”
- Chief Kelley’s concerns include IRS consequences. He suggested that our attorney review the policy to be sure it follows IRS guidelines.

- Brian Crocker stated that he does not want anyone driving too fast with lights on, and hopes that everyone is proceeding safely. Also, there should always be someone close by and available to respond to an emergency. Also, he states that the lights are sometimes overpowering.
- Jonathan Rogers stated that the policy does not specify what the light package is, only that it is consistent among vehicles.
- The next steps are to make adjustments and send to our attorney for review. Then the policy will come back to the Prudential Committee for a vote.

Vacant office position

- We are still awaiting the MOA from the Union, and as soon as that is approved the position will be posted.

Public Comment – 6:50 PM

- Retired FF Ralph Braley: Asked if the vacancy on the Fire Station Study Committee had been posted and if the position had been filled. Joyce Bacchiocchi stated that no, it had not.
- Retired AC Mark Rogers commented on the accuracy of minutes. He also stated that upgrades to Station 2 had already been voted on at District Meeting. Also, Mark stated that there had been an Article proposed for Station 3 but those funds were instead used for the Fire Station Study Committee article.
- Kathy Bird questioned why the recording of Pru Comm meetings was not on the agenda.

Any business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of meeting – 6:53 PM

- None

Adjourn to Executive Session, not to return to regular session – 6:53 PM

Executive Session: Union Negotiations. Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

- Local 1249 office position

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

Next scheduled meeting is August 27, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by Joyce Bacchiocchi, Clerk.

Chair  Vote Date 8/27/26

Clerk  Approve 5

Disapprove 0

Abstain 0

Good afternoon, since the time we met last, several things have happened within the organization. I was notified that the new Engine 1 has arrived in Walpole at the dealer and is awaiting the lettering company to start the lettering process soon, This has been over a three-year process and I would like to thank the members of the committee for a great job on such an important project.

The Board of Engineers has hired a temporary Call Firefighter to fill a vacancy on shift 1, by contract we can use the Firefighter in the spot for 60 days, this will help relieve some overtime due to the man for man coverage.

I was notified that a Firefighter that is currently out on 111F shall be returning shortly after August 24, 2026, I wish him well and look forward to his return.

The Board of Engineers held a meeting and voted on establishing a new list for the Career Firefighter position. This list will be good for 1 year. Once the applicants' qualifications are confirmed and complete the list will be established.

A Firefighter has started the full-time recruit academy in Bridgewater this past week, it lasts approximately 10 weeks.

Engine 1 has returned to service after several mechanical items that needed to be addressed, Engine 5 has been sent to the dealer for some warranty work and should return later this week.

Weekly meetings have started with Motorola on the radio project; Asst. Chief Haskell is the point of contact with this project for Wareham Fire. It also has been determined that LT. Bryan Whalen is the point of contact for Wareham Police and the two will work collectively to keep there respective agencies up to date on the progress and the schedule. \

The Board of Engineers have decided to fill the open position in Fire Prevention with a temporary Captain due to the workload within the office of Fire Prevention.

During the Board of Engineers meeting it was brought to the boards attention that Station 3 on Glen Charlie Road has in issue with racoons entering the roof and getting inside of the station as well as water damage getting in and causing water damage within the ceilings in the bath room as well as the main living quarters, This is something that will need to be addressed asap to prevent more damage, my thought is if we are having a Special District meeting coming up can we add an article for a dollar amount to make emergency repairs to this building to make it usable, currently the rest room has no ceiling and is open to the roof

line as well as several sections of the main ceiling having water damage with mold due to water damage. I have FF Freitas receiving quotes on the project currently.

The Training Division has started a driver operator program within the call force to establish some new operators of apparatus. This program will cover all the major apparatus and be done to all the latest standards; I would like to thank the training division for making this class available to the department.

On Wednesday August 5, 2026 I was advised that Squad 2 was hit by a vehicle at Cumberland Farms on Main Street the vehicle left the scene and was tracked down by the Wareham Police and information and a report was filed regarding the incident. There were no injuries.

And Lastly Today is the official retirement day for Fire Fighter Andrew J. Rowley after serving the department and the community for 31 years. I wish Firefighter Rowley all the best in the next chapter of his life.

**WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT
TREASURERS REPORT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING: August 6, 2026**

FISCAL YEAR END:

Statement of Indebtedness has been filed with the Commonwealth of MA Division of Local Services. Copy is attached to this report. Total District debt on June 30th, 2026, \$14,252,031.00

Fixed Assets have been updated for FY26

Reconciliation of Overlay; Suspended Betterments; and Uncommitted Betterment Principal have all been reconciled to the Town.

All other receivables (real estate, personal property, tax title, committed betterments and water liens) will be reconciled upon receipt of the June recap from the Town of Wareham.

CBIZ, our auditing firm, is scheduled to be here August 17th through the 21st to begin the preliminary FY26 testing.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Sophia will be attending MCTA Annual Treasurer's school in Amherst next week so she will not be in the office.