

# West Barnstable Fire District

*Established July 12, 1949 by Chapter 107 Acts of 1949*



## **2020 Annual Reports**

**FY 2022**

### **Annual Fire District Meeting Warrant**

**Annual Fire District Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2020 – 7:00 PM**

**West Barnstable Fire Headquarters – Outside**

In the event of rain, the meeting will be held in the fire station truck bays.



Like us on  
**Facebook**

**District Meeting Election Voting 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**Fire District Meeting at 7:00 PM**

## West Barnstable Village Demographics & Data

Population:	3278 (02668 zip code/2010 US Census)
Population Density:	221 people per square mile
Median Age	53
Occupied Housing Units:	1279 (89.6% owner occupied)
Average People Per House	2
Households Without Children	953
Households With Children	263
Land Mass:	13.5 Square Miles
Highest Elevation:	232 feet above sea level
Lowest Elevation:	Sea Level
Elevation of Fire Station:	30 feet above sea level
Number of Fire Hydrants:	52
Percentage of Village with Hydrants:	10%
ISO Rating – Hydrant Areas:	Class 2
ISO Rating – Non-Hydrant Areas:	Class 4
Number of Street Lights:	91
Median Household Income:	\$100,379
Average Household Income:	\$120,190
Per-Capita Income:	\$52,923
Median Home Value:	\$536,598 (13.1% increase in 2020)

To view additional information about West Barnstable and your fire department, including the complete West Barnstable Community Risk Analysis, West Barnstable Fire Department Strategic Plan and the West Barnstable Fire Department Standards of Cover go to [www.westbarnstablefire.com](http://www.westbarnstablefire.com).



# **WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT**

**NOTICE TO FIRE DISTRICT VOTERS**

## **FY 2022**

**Annual Fire District Meeting  
And Election of Fire District Officials**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

Fire District Voting 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Fire District Meeting Starts at 7:00 PM

**West Barnstable FIRE STATION - Outdoors  
2160 Meetinghouse Way (Route 149)  
West Barnstable, MA 02668**

**FY 2022 Meeting Warrant Begins on Page 43**

**2020 Annual Reports**

# **West Barnstable Fire District Elected and Appointed Officials**

## **Elected Officials**

### **Moderator**

Kate Mitchell

Term Expires 2023

### **Prudential Committee**

Stuart Schulman

Term Expires 2021

W. Van Northcross

Term Expires 2022

Edward C. Smith, Chairman

Term Expires 2023

### **Board of Water Commissioners**

Arne Ojala

Term Expires 2021

Kristine Clark

Term Expires 2022

Mark S. Wirtanen

Term Expires 2023

## **Appointed Officials**

Elaine L. Grace, Clerk

Raymond Pirrone, Treasurer

Susan Rao, Accountant

Joseph V. Maruca, Fire Chief

David Paananen, Deputy Chief

**2020 ANNUAL MEETING of the WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT  
MAY 20, 2020**

The Annual Meeting of the West Barnstable Fire District was held in the West Barnstable Fire Headquarters parking lot, 2160 Meetinghouse Way (Route 149), West Barnstable, Massachusetts on **May 20, 2020**. In accordance with provisions of the duly posted and published Warrant, the polls were open on May 20, 2020 for the election of District officials from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Serving as ballot counters were Susan Rao, Heather Scozzarella and Nanette Jacobson. With a total of 55 ballots cast, the results were as follows:

		<u>Votes</u>	<u>Blanks</u>	<u>Write-ins</u>
Prudential Committee/3 Years	Edward Smith	54	1	0
Water Commissioner/3 Years	Mark Wirtanen	55	0	0
Moderator	Kate Mitchell	54	1	0

At 7:00 PM, the meeting was called to order by District Moderator, Kate Mitchell, who determined a quorum was present. The Clerk, Elaine L. Grace read the Call of the Warrant, confirmed that the Warrant had been served by posting a copy thereof at the West Barnstable Post Office, the Whelden Memorial Library, and at West Barnstable Fire Headquarters, all in the West Barnstable Fire District, at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting, and further reported that, in accordance with District By-Laws, the Warrant had been published in The Barnstable Patriot newspaper in the April 17, 2020 issue. A booklet, containing the Annual Reports of 2019 and the Fiscal Year 2021 Warrant was mailed to approximately 1663 residents of the District on April 17, 2020. Notice of a change in meeting date from April 29, 2020 to May 20, 2020 was published in The Barnstable Patriot on April 24, 2020 and May 1, 2020. A meeting reminder postcard was also sent to District voters on May 14, 2020.

**Article 1.** Upon motion made by Van Northcross and duly seconded by Edward Crowley, it was unanimously voted to accept the reports of the Officers , including the minutes of the previous annual meeting, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 2.** Upon motion made by Van Northcross and duly seconded by Steven Xiarhos, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the **Fiscal Year** beginning **July 1, 2020**, in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and Acts in amendment thereof, and including in addition thereto, Chapter 849 of the Acts of 1969, as amended, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of one (1) year or less in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 3.** Upon motion duly made by Van Northcross and seconded by Mark Nelson, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate in **FY2021** the sum of **Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)** for streetlights as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 4.** Upon motion duly made by Van Northcross and seconded by Steven Xiarhos, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate in **FY2021** the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)** from Certified Free Cash and raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-six Dollars (\$5,236.00)** for a total sum of **Thirty-five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-six Dollars (35,236.00)** for debt services, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 5.** Upon motion duly made by Van Northcross and seconded by Steven Xiarhos, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty-two Thousand Ninety Dollars (\$62,090.00)** for District Salaries in **FY2021** for the following officers: Moderator, District Treasurer, District Accountant, District Clerk, Prudential Committee, and Records Access Officer, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 6.** Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and seconded by Steven Xiarhos, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$50,150.00)** for the ordinary operating expenses of the District in **FY2021**, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 7.** Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and seconded by Steven Xiarhos, after much discussion, it was voted to raise and appropriate in **FY2021** the sum of **One Million Four Hundred Sixty-one Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$1,461,655.00)** for the operation of the West Barnstable Fire Department, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Fire Chief, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters. There was one vote in the negative.

**Article 8.** Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and seconded by Tracie Crowley, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate the sum of **Four Hundred Thousand One Hundred Fifty-three Dollars (400,153.00)** and transfer and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-two Dollars (\$40,622.00)** from the OPEB Trust Fund for a total sum of **Four Hundred Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$440,775.00)** to fund miscellaneous District obligations in **FY2021**, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 9.** Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and seconded by Tracie Crowley, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate to the Reserve Fund in **FY2021** the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)**, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 10.** Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and seconded by Tracie Crowley, it was voted unanimously to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash in **FY2021** the sum of **Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** for the **General Stabilization Fund**, the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)** for the **Ambulance Stabilization Fund**, and the sum of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)** for the **Critical Health/Illness Fund**, for a total sum of **Fifty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$57,500.00)**, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 11.** Upon motion duly made by Stuart Schulman, seconded by Wendy Northcross,, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate in **FY2021**, the sum of **Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$14,520.00)** to fund a financial audit of the West Barnstable Fire District for the Fiscal Year ending **June 30, 2020**, said funds to be expended under the Prudential Committee, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 12.** Upon a motion duly made by Stuart Schulman and seconded by Tracie Crowley, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate in **FY2021**, the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** from Certified Free Cash for Whelden Memorial Library services, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 13.** Upon a motion duly made by Stuart Schulman and seconded by Steven Xiarhos, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate in **FY2021**, the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** from Certified Free Cash for corrosion repair to Tanker #286, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2019**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 14.** Upon a motion duly made by Stuart Schulman and seconded by Steven Xiarhos it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate in FY2021, the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) from Certified Free Cash to purchase a new engine to replace the ladder truck, as printed in the Annual Reports of 2019, distributed to the voters.

There being no further business before the meeting, the **2020 Annual West Barnstable Fire District Meeting** was adjourned sine die at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Grace, District Clerk



## 2020 REPORT OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

It will not come as a surprise to anyone when we say that this has been a year of challenges like no other. And that is not just hyperbole. We have challenges in a normal year maintaining and replacing equipment, meeting operational standards, recruiting and training – all while staying within the budget the annual meeting has approved for us. But to do it in the midst of a worldwide pandemic that has killed over a half a million Americans and disrupted the economy is something that none of us have ever experienced in our lifetimes.

To begin with, we want to offer condolences, support and encouragement to all those who have lost loved ones, friends or neighbors. This is a tragedy on the scale of a mass casualty event every single day. It is absolutely unprecedented and our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of those who have not survived the coronavirus. Similarly, we want to offer our encouragement to all those who have been adversely affected by the economic fallout, who have lost jobs and to the students whose education has been disrupted. Hopefully we have reached the turning point in the battle against the virus and better days are coming. Soon.

We have had a year of holding our monthly meetings virtually via Zoom as we have monitored revenues and expenses in the 2021 budget and worked on the 2022 budget to present to the annual district meeting. In addition, we have been able to review documents and policies, including the adoption of a gifts policy and revisions to job descriptions, personnel policies and review documents, plus the review and acceptance of the fine work by the Strategic Planning Committee. Most of this work was done via Zoom meetings which worked well but seemed strange to us all.

We have many people to thank for their hard but careful work this year as we went about our business socially distanced, masked and, in the case of our first responders, appropriately attired in personal protective equipment. It was not an easy year to navigate. Our fulltime staff, volunteers, financial staff and office staff under the direction of Chief Maruca and Deputy Chief Paananen have responded to every challenge magnificently. We are grateful to each and every one of them.

At the very top of the list of those we would like to acknowledge are the 52 West Barnstable citizens who came to the fire station parking lot on a cool evening last May 20<sup>th</sup> to vote in our annual election and to approve the warrant articles for the 2021 fiscal year. Our bylaws call for our annual meeting to be held on the last Wednesday every April. In 2020 that was not possible as we were still in the early days of the pandemic and under a statewide lockdown. Gatherings such as our annual meeting were strictly prohibited. We were finally able to devise a plan for holding the meeting outside in our parking lot and that plan was approved. We just did not know if anyone would show up. In normal years, we sometimes have difficulty attracting the 25 citizens needed to reach a quorum. It was as gratifying as it was heart-warming to have 52 residents check in and take socially distanced seats in the parking lot as we got our business underway. We thank you all.

The plan today is to hold our meeting once again in the parking lot at 7:00 pm on April 28<sup>th</sup>. If the weather drives us into the equipment bay or forces a postponement, we will make every effort to notify everyone. But let's all hope for a warm and beautiful spring evening.

Meanwhile, stay safe, wear a mask, maintain social distancing and get vaccinated when it's your turn. There is light at the end of this pandemic tunnel but we still have some distance to travel before we get there. Be positive, test negative and we hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Van Northcross, Chair  
Edward C. Smith  
Stuart Schulman



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS

The Water Commissioners did not address any water issues this year and did not meet in FY2020. The Water Commissioners were aware that the Town of Barnstable's Water Supply Division identified possible potential municipal water supplies on Town-owned property. The evaluation was contracted by the Town and the report made public in March 2019. That report may be accessed on the Town's website under Water Supply Division/Reports and Regulations: "New Source Alternatives Evaluation Report". Several parcels were identified as possible municipal sites for future water extraction for the rate payers of the Town's Water Supply Division. The Bridge Creek Conservation Area (Site C), and the West Barnstable Conservation Area along with the Otis Atwood Conservation Area (Site D) within the West Barnstable Water District were two of the seven sites identified. Drilling was conducted this past year and those results are being evaluated and have yet to be made public by the Town.

We encourage District residents to test periodically test their well water. The Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment recommends annual testing for (at minimum) coliform bacteria, pH, specific conductance, sodium, and nitrates. More comprehensive testing for copper, iron, manganese, total dissolved solids, lead and suite of volatile organic compounds should be done every 3 years.

<https://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org/programs-and-services/water-quality-laboratory/residential-water-testing>

Samples for bacterial analysis must be taken in sterile bottles. Pre-cleaned and sterilized sample containers are available without charge. Bottles with water samples should be dropped off at the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment and County Water Quality Laboratory, located in the Barnstable County Complex, 3195 Main Street, Barnstable. The lab is open 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. For questions, call the Laboratory Front Desk: 508 375-6605. To protect drinking water wells in West Barnstable, we recommend proper disposal of medicines, oil, and chemicals. They should NOT go down the drain or in the yard. To safely dispose of unwanted medications, all 15 Cape Cod towns have an anonymous and free drop-off kiosk in their police department lobby. For more information, see the Barnstable County website on Unwanted Medications.

<https://www.capecodextension.org/project/unwanted-medications/>

<https://www.capecodextension.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/safe-meds-disposal-brochure.pdf>

Also, Cape Cod Extension coordinates Hazardous Waste Collections on Cape Cod. In 2021, hazardous waste will be collected in Barnstable from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM on **APRIL 3, JUNE 26, AUGUST 29** and **SEPTEMBER 18** at the **BARNSTABLE Transfer Station**. For more information:

<https://www.capecodextension.org/hazardouswaste/hhw/>

Respectfully submitted,

Arne Ojala, Chair  
Kristine Clark  
Mark Wirtanen

## 2020 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT TREASURER

The Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 20) books are closed and all the requisite financial statements and reports for that period have been filed with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR). Our firm of independent accountants, Roselli Clark and Associates, have completed the annual audit and their report is available for you online at the District web site. <http://westbarnstablefiredistrict.com>

The District FY 20 operations resulted in underspent Budget appropriations of \$108,446. In addition, local receipts – primarily ambulance services – generated \$78,306 more revenue than estimated in the FY20 Budget. These two positive variances plus the unused Free Cash from the prior year of \$129,946 resulted in \$329,239 of Free Cash at June 30, 2020. The DOR certified that amount as the District's Free Cash in December. This Free Cash as well as funds from Stabilization (\$414,509); Special Revenue (\$103,878) and Overlay Surplus (\$90,000) are available for use at the 2021 Annual District Meeting.

Another positive result was a decline in this years' property tax rate. The 2021 tax rate of \$2.62 reflects a \$0.13 reduction from last year's rate. An increase in property values in the District of 6.9% offset the small increase of 1.8% in net appropriations resulting in the 4.7% tax rate decrease.

The tax rate was set in timely manner with the assistance of Edward F. O'Neil, the Director of Assessing for the Town of Barnstable and we thank him for that assistance. In addition, we want to thank Debra Blanchette, Town Treasurer/Collector, for the collection of District taxes and for her staffs many other efforts on behalf of the District. Finally, we wish to thank Susan Rao for her excellent work as Accountant for the District.

The following reports are included as part of this narrative for your reference. These reports include several FY 20 year-end financial statements of the District; the Proposed Budget for Fiscal year 2022; and select historical data. These reports are prepared using the modified cash basis which is the mandated Massachusetts method for District reporting. The audit report is based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for Municipalities. The notable differences between these two methods are the recognition of pension and post-retirement liabilities, certain year end operating obligations and the fixed assets of the District which are included in GAAP reports but omitted from the modified cash basis presented here.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service and I look forward to serving you in the next fiscal year. I am always available to provide additional information or answer questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ray Pirrone*  
District Treasurer

West Barnstable Fire District  
 Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and  
 Changes in Fund Balances  
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

	General Fund	Stabilization Funds	Special Revenue Funds	Debt Fund	Trust Funds	Total (Memorandum Only)
<b>REVENUES:</b>						
Property Taxes:						
Personal Property	\$ 20,019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,019
Real Estate	1,736,598					1,736,598
Tax Liens	11,301					11,301
Local Receipts:						
Licenses, Permits, Fines & Fees	40,051					40,051
Investment Income	4,148	3,922	954		3,540	12,565
Grants	125,023					125,023
gifts			200			200
User Charges	305,743					305,743
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>2,242,883</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,540</b>	<b>2,251,500</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>						
General Government	196,642					196,642
Public Safety	1,429,739		697			1,430,436
Public Works	1,822					1,822
Culture and Recreation	15,000					15,000
Employee Benefits and Insurance	262,265				40,182	302,447
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,905,468</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,182</b>	<b>1,946,347</b>
<b>REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>337,416</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(36,642)</b>	<b>305,153</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES/(USES):</b>						
Operating Transfers In		60,000		60,000	70,000	190,000
Operating Transfers Out	(190,000)					(190,000)
<b>TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES/(USES)</b>	<b>(190,000)</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>-</b>
REVENUE AND OTHER SOURCES OVER/ (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	147,416	63,922	457	60,000	33,358	305,153
<b>Fund Balances - July 1, 2019</b>	<b>678,334</b>	<b>378,059</b>	<b>99,796</b>	<b>(300,000)</b>	<b>146,414</b>	<b>1,002,602</b>
<b>Fund Balances - June 30, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 825,750</b>	<b>\$ 441,981</b>	<b>\$ 100,253</b>	<b>\$ (240,000)</b>	<b>\$ 179,772</b>	<b>\$ 1,307,755</b>

West Barnstable Fire District  
 Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups  
 as of June 30, 2020

	General	Stabilization	Special Revenue	Debt	Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 849,714	\$ 441,981	\$ 100,253	\$ -	\$ 179,772	\$ 1,571,720
Receivables:						
Personal property taxes	1,481					1,481
Real estate taxes	100,759					100,759
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(131,717)					(131,717)
Deferred taxes	1,397					1,397
Tax liens	134,242					134,242
Departmental	423,289					423,289
Other receivables	29,861					29,861
Due from other governments	6,805					6,805
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds				240,000		240,000
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,415,832</u>	<u>\$ 441,981</u>	<u>\$ 100,253</u>	<u>\$ 240,000</u>	<u>\$ 179,772</u>	<u>\$ 2,377,838</u>

**LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY**

Liabilities:						
Accounts payable	\$ 42,901	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,901
Accrued payroll and withholdings	42,901					42,901
Other liabilities	686					686
Deferred revenue:						
Real and personal property taxes	(29,477)					(29,477)
Deferred taxes	1,397					1,397
Tax liens	134,242					134,242
Departmental	397,430					397,430
Notes payable				240,000		240,000
Total Liabilities	<u>590,082</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>240,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>830,082</u>
Fund Equity:						
Reserved for encumbrances	4,342					4,342
Reserved for expenditures	167,500				179,772	347,272
Reserved for continuing appropriations	154,822					154,822
Reserved fund balance			100,253			100,253
Undesignated fund balance	499,086	441,981				941,067
Total Fund Equity	<u>825,750</u>	<u>441,981</u>	<u>100,253</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>179,772</u>	<u>1,547,756</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$ 1,415,832</u>	<u>\$ 441,981</u>	<u>\$ 100,253</u>	<u>\$ 240,000</u>	<u>\$ 179,772</u>	<u>\$ 2,377,838</u>

West Barnstable Fire District  
Statement of Net Funded and Fixed Debt  
Year ended June 30, 2020

<b>BONDED INDEBTEDNESS</b>	<b>BONDS OUTSTANDING</b>
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**LONG TERM DEBT**

BALANCE JULY 1, 2019	\$ -
less: PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	\$ -
BALANCE JUNE 30, 2020	\$ -

**SHORT TERM DEBT**

BALANCE JULY 1, 2019	\$ 240,000.00
less: PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	\$ 30,000.00
BALANCE JUNE 30, 2020	\$ 210,000.00

**INTERES PAID ON DEBT IN FISCAL 2020**

	\$ 7,479.15
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West Barnstable Fire District  
Fiscal Year 2022  
Budget

Article	Group / Line Item	FY 2018 ACTUAL	FY 2019 ACTUAL	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 BUDGET	FY 2022 PROPOSED	% Change
3	Street Lights	2,965	2,423	1,822	5,000	5,000	0.0%
	<b>Debt Services</b>						
	Interest Expense		3,750	7,479	5,236	2,415	-53.9%
	Long Term Debt		-	60,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
4	<b>Total Debt Services</b>	-	<b>3,750</b>	<b>67,479</b>	<b>35,236</b>	<b>32,415</b>	<b>-8.0%</b>
	<b>District Salaries</b>						
	Moderator	50	50	50	50	50	0.0%
	Prudential Committee Salary	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
	District Accountant	21,101	19,419	21,024	22,404	22,965	2.5%
	District Treasurer	26,063	26,904	17,113	25,740	21,112	-18.0%
	Records Access Officer	-	-	-	6,396	6,556	2.5%
	District Clerk	220	5,500	6,000	6,000	6,000	0.0%
5	<b>Total District Salaries</b>	<b>48,933</b>	<b>53,374</b>	<b>45,687</b>	<b>62,090</b>	<b>58,183</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>
	<b>District Expenses</b>						
	Assessing / Tax Collection	3,650	3,626	3,626	7,650	7,650	0.0%
	Bank Service Charges	1,797	1,328	1,300	2,500	2,000	-20.0%
	Professional Services	4,100	1,000	3,026	5,000	4,000	-20.0%
	FICA / Medicare	15,180	17,625	17,472	19,000	19,828	4.4%
	Life Insurance	217	185	151	250	250	0.0%
	Legal	14,628	1,908	5,704	2,000	2,000	0.0%
	Prudential Committee Operation	8,137	10,128	11,585	10,000	10,000	0.0%
	Payroll Services	2,603	2,646	2,772	3,000	3,000	0.0%
	Water Commission Operation	20	537	-	750	500	-33.3%
6	<b>Total District Expenses</b>	<b>50,332</b>	<b>38,984</b>	<b>45,635</b>	<b>50,150</b>	<b>49,228</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>



Article	Group / Line Item	FY 2018 ACTUAL	FY 2019 ACTUAL	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 BUDGET	FY 2022 PROPOSED	% Change
	<b>Fire Department</b>						
	<b>Fire Department Payroll</b>						
	Fire Chief	111,343	111,427	115,828	137,500	140,938	2.5%
	Deputy Fire Chief	98,422	100,391	104,395	129,000	132,225	2.5%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Career	353,942	315,857	369,431	398,000	413,476	3.9%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Adm. Asst.	19,461	25,563	23,783	25,980	26,629	2.5%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Call/Volunteer Wages	111,894	71,187	137,751	130,000	130,000	0.0%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Part Time Firefighters	68,433	92,139	99,632	95,800	100,000	4.4%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Career Over Time	234,445	248,407	206,591	253,500	253,500	0.0%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Training	-	-	-	26,000	20,000	-23.1%
	Fire Dept. Compensated Absences	-	38,792	-	-	-	
	<b>Fire Dept. Payroll Subtotal</b>	<b>997,940</b>	<b>1,003,763</b>	<b>1,057,409</b>	<b>1,195,780</b>	<b>1,216,768</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
	<b>Fire Department Operations</b>						
	FD Operation - Admin	31,140	32,435	28,498	32,300	32,300	0.0%
	FD Operation - Facilities Maintenance	39,572	44,730	50,354	49,850	49,850	0.0%
	FD Operation - Equipment Maintenance	52,297	53,319	52,025	56,200	53,050	-5.6%
	FD Operation - New Equipment	50,595	11,954	25,531	6,500	9,000	38.5%
	FD Operation - Uniforms	4,879	3,692	8,541	7,975	7,975	0.0%
	FD Operation - Ambulance	23,181	22,582	22,924	24,500	26,800	9.4%
	FD Operation - Personnel Training	15,126	17,348	26,481	33,000	35,000	6.1%
	FD Operation - Other Expenses	47,614	50,642	54,693	55,550	58,360	5.1%
	<b>Fire Dept. Non-Payroll Subtotal</b>	<b>264,403</b>	<b>236,703</b>	<b>268,947</b>	<b>265,875</b>	<b>272,335</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Total Fire Department</b>	<b>1,262,343</b>	<b>1,240,466</b>	<b>1,326,356</b>	<b>1,461,655</b>	<b>1,489,103</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
	<b>Miscellaneous</b>						
	County Retirement	125,236	113,911	126,295	132,976	154,413	16.1%
	Employee Health Insurance - Active Employees	143,264	145,381	95,242	97,077	91,386	-5.9%
	Retiree Health Insurance			40,577	40,622	38,569	-5.1%
	General Insurance	76,355	77,892	84,289	90,100	90,100	0.0%
	Transfer to OPEB Trust	30,000	54,000	70,000	80,000	129,000	61.3%
<b>8</b>	<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>374,855</b>	<b>391,184</b>	<b>416,403</b>	<b>440,775</b>	<b>503,468</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Reserve Fund</b>	-	-	-	<b>30,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>16.7%</b>

Article	Group / Line Item	FY 2018 ACTUAL	FY 2019 ACTUAL	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 BUDGET	FY 2022 PROPOSED	% Change
10	<b>Other Financing Uses</b>						
	Stabilization Fund - General	26,122	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	0.0%
	Stabilization Fund - Ambulance	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
	Stabilization Fund - Critical Health/Illness	-	-	5,000	2,500	2,500	0.0%
	<b>Total Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>56,122</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
11	<b>Audit</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>14,520</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
12	<b>Library Funding</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	<b>Capital Outlays</b>						
	Purchas of new Turnout Gear (PPE)		20,000	10,000			
	Tires		6,700	-			
	Fire Hose		6,500	-			
	Corrosion Repair Tanker 286		-	-	15,000		
	Used Engine to Replace Ladder Truck		-	-	50,000		
	Pickup Truck		25,000	-			
	Replace Ambulance	300,000					
	miscellaneous projects	86,743				650,000	
13	Replace Engine 296		-	-		20,000	
14	Capital Improvements at Fire Station		-	-			
	<b>Total Capital Outlays</b>	<b>386,743</b>	<b>58,200</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	
	<b>Total FY Expended/Budgeted Appropriations</b>	<b>2,208,293</b>	<b>2,067,929</b>	<b>2,112,029</b>	<b>2,236,926</b>	<b>2,929,897</b>	

**WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT  
TAXATION COMPARISON  
FY 2018 TO FY 2021 WITH FY 2022 PROPOSED**

	<b>FY 2018 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2022 Proposed</b>
Total Appropriations	\$ 2,208,293	\$ 2,067,929	\$ 2,112,029	\$ 2,236,926	\$ 2,929,897
Overlay/Deficits	18,981	16,544	16,998	10,000	10,000
<b>Total Amount to be Raised</b>	<b>2,227,274</b>	<b>2,084,473</b>	<b>2,129,027</b>	<b>2,246,926</b>	<b>2,939,897</b>
Ambulance Fees	225,000	225,000	240,000	239,000	239,800
Local Receipts				13,953	
Debt Funding					300,000
Free Cash	180,800	121,700	95,000	167,500	262,500
OPEB Trust Fund	3,429	30,500	40,577	40,622	38,569
Overlay Surplus					90,000
Stabilization & Other	210,000	6,500			160,000
<b>Local Revenue and Other Funding Sources</b>	<b>619,229</b>	<b>383,700</b>	<b>375,577</b>	<b>461,075</b>	<b>1,090,869</b>
<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$ 1,608,045</b>	<b>\$ 1,700,773</b>	<b>\$ 1,753,450</b>	<b>\$ 1,785,851</b>	<b>\$ 1,849,028</b>
<i>increase</i>	5.10%	5.77%	3.10%	1.85%	3.54%
<b>Property Values</b>	<b>\$ 578,433,570</b>	<b>\$ 611,788,960</b>	<b>\$ 637,618,020</b>	<b>\$ 681,622,670</b>	<b>\$ 681,622,670</b>
<i>increase</i>	2.08%	5.77%	4.22%	6.90%	0.00%
<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>\$ 2.78</b>	<b>\$ 2.78</b>	<b>\$ 2.75</b>	<b>\$ 2.62</b>	<b>\$ 2.71</b>
<i>increase/decrease</i>	2.96%	0.00%	-1.08%	-4.73%	3.54%
Residential Parcel Count	1,152	1,154	1,160	1,161	1,161
<b>Residential Parcel Value</b>	<b>\$ 508,495,300</b>	<b>\$ 541,143,500</b>	<b>\$ 568,752,600</b>	<b>\$ 601,054,600</b>	<b>\$ 601,054,600</b>
<i>increase</i>	2.73%	6.42%	5.10%	5.68%	0.00%
Average Residential Property Value	\$ 441,402	\$ 468,929	\$ 490,304	\$ 517,704	\$ 517,704
Average Residential Tax Bill	\$ 1,227	\$ 1,304	\$ 1,348	\$ 1,356	\$ 1,404
<i>increase</i>	5.50%	6.24%	3.43%	0.60%	3.54%

**2020 Fire Chief's Annual Report  
West Barnstable Fire Department  
Chief Joseph V. Maruca**

The West Barnstable Fire Department (WBFD) responded to 629 emergency incidents in 2020. This is a typical number of emergency calls for our village. About 42% of these calls were for emergency medical services (EMS). There were no major fire losses in the community in 2020.

<b>Annual Emergency Call Volume</b>	
Calendar Year	
1975: 156	2008: 651
1980: 309	2009: 533
1985: 326	2010: 567
1990: 305	2011: 649
1995: 396	2012: 608
2000: 431	2013: 654
2005: 536	2014: 630
2006: 502	2015: 760
2007: 534	2016: 629
	2017: 628
	2018: 661
	2019: 609
	<b>2020: 629</b>

The big difference between 2020 and prior years was the COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on all aspects of the department. In the response category, the department had 104 COVID-19 details (17% of its activity). These details represent the WBFD being called upon to assist with the establishment and operation of the regional COVID-19 testing site at the Cape Cod Community College from March 16<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Additionally, ambulance transports to the hospital decreased by 44 trips. We believe this to be a result of people being afraid to go to the hospital out of fear of getting COVID-19. We also had patients refuse to go to the hospital because the hospital was not allowing visitors, and people didn't want to be isolated or cut-off from family. Ambulance services across the country reported similar situations. In April and May 2020 the WBFD went days

without an ambulance call, when we would normally be going out every day.

There were four notable motor vehicle crashes in 2020. The first one involved a cement mixer crash on RT 6, the second was a precast concrete truck rollover on RT 6, the third was an excavator rollover on Main Street, and the fourth was a gravel truck rollover on RT 6 (that completely blocked the road with gravel). Each of these involved a heavy truck, hazard materials (fuel & hydraulic oils), and massive traffic problems. In one case, the driver was taken to South Shore Hospital for traumatic injuries.

**Last Old Normal**

The weekend before the pandemic went into full swing, the WBFD conducted a 30-acre prescribed fire in the West Barnstable Conservation Area. The prescriptive fire was in collaboration with the Town of Barnstable and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The WBFD tries to conduct at least one prescribed fire in the conservation area each year as part of a regional plan to reduce wildland fuel loads and create safety zones. Up to this point, 2020 seemed like just another year in the world of the WBFD. It was hard to imagine what was about to come.

<b>Overlapping Emergency Calls</b>		
<b>2020</b>	<b>35 calls</b>	<b>6%</b>
2019	43 calls	7%
2018	90 calls	14%
2017	74 calls	12%
2016	52 calls	8%
2015	93 calls	12%
2014	64 calls	10%

Overlapping emergency calls is when we get a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> emergency while we are still handling the 1<sup>st</sup> emergency.

In June, the Wbfd conducted a smaller prescribed fire of about five acres in the West Barnstable Conservation Area.

### The Pandemic

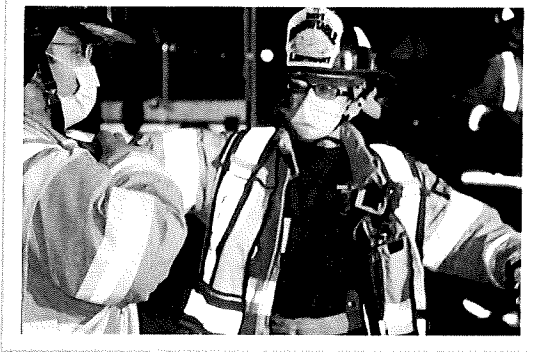
The COVID-19 Pandemic created constant, ongoing and difficult challenges for the Wbfd. The pandemic impacted every aspect of operations at the department. It was like nothing else we've ever experienced. Our staff spent the nine months (of 2020) under a great deal of stress and anxiety. In spite of all our difficulties, the members of the Wbfd found ways to continue providing service, to keep training, and overcome whatever was thrown at them.

Starting on March 16, 2020 and continuing to July 23, 2020, the Wbfd was called upon to help establish and then operate the regional COVID-19 test site in the parking lot of the Cape Cod Community College (CCCC). The Wbfd was responsible for safety and EMS at the site (because it is in West Barnstable). We partnered with Cape Cod Hospital, the Cape Cod Community College, and Barnstable County. We were part of establishing one of the first successful regional drive-through COVID testing sites.

Wbfd **Deputy Fire Chief David Paananen** worked at the COVID-19 test site at CCCC every day (seven days a week), without a day off, for the first thirteen days of operation, from about 7AM to 7PM each day. Eventually, the Deputy worked 91 out of the 104 days that the site was open. Deputy Paananen served as the test site safety officer. As the process evolved, **Lieutenant Curtis Cottrell**, **FF/EMT Stephen Imparato**, and **Lt. Kim Sylvia** were able to occasionally take over as safety officer to give Deputy Paananen a day off or so he could work at the fire station. In his absence from the fire station, other officers had to take over Deputy Paananen's day to day duties.

The pandemic caused us to continually adjust our staffing and training. We had to cancel all live training starting in March. We held our last traditional Tuesday night drill on March 10, 2020. We weren't able to resume in-person training until June 9, 2020. In April and May we conducted 14 virtual/online training sessions. We held two small group training sessions, which were repeated in order to cycle small numbers of staff through the training. Overall, we saw training decrease in 2020, something that is unusual for us.

We also had to on-board new volunteers and conduct the first half of our new volunteer firefighter recruit class online/virtually (much via Zoom). **Captain Troy Jewett**, our recruit training coordinator, was able to figure out ways to safely get our ten new recruits in for hands-on training in small groups so they were ready to respond to calls in July.



Over the summer, roughly June through October, the department shifted to outdoor training. Our last in-person outside drill was on November 4th. After that, all training shifted back to online/virtual or small groups outside. We were forced to rethink and find new ways to deliver training and maintain our readiness. Some of it was rough and dull. One big shift was how we managed to conduct our annual

water shuttle drill. The water shuttle drill usually involves about 50 to 60 firefighters and 15-18 trucks. This year, we broke the drill into three small segments conducted on three separate evenings in order to keep participation to less than 20 firefighters each night.

The department also had to limit staffing. Initially, we broke our volunteer force into two sections. We had one section active and responding to calls, and one section in reserve. Then we swapped the two groups. We also reduced our overnight staff to four firefighters (one career and three volunteers) to limit exposures. The fire station has poor sleeping quarters, especially for a pandemic. Unlike modern fire stations we don't have individual rooms for each firefighter and still use a common bunk room. (When the fire station was built, nobody seemed to have identified that we'd need private bunk spaces because we would have women on the department.) We had volunteers camping out in different parts of the building to avoid shared sleeping spaces.

For much of the year, the department's administrative staff was working from home, and continues to do so into 2021. This created a variety of privacy protection issues and online security issues that had to be overcome.

The fire station was closed to the public on March 15, 2020 and it remains closed. We had to suspend community programs and meetings, including conducting blood pressure checks.

Initially, the Wbfd experienced shortages of EMS personal protective equipment (PPE) and difficulty restocking PPE. While challenging, our situation was not as bad as many other departments or regions of the country. Cape Cod fire departments freely provided PPE to each other when the need arose. As we end 2020 our PPE inventory is robust.

The pandemic created some substantial budget challenges for the department. We had costs for COVID testing, covering shifts of people sick or quarantining, decontamination expenses for the ambulance and building, lost revenue due to fewer ambulance transports, the costs of extra steps to accomplish formerly routine tasks, and increased costs for EMS supplies and PPE. However, we ended FY 2020 (June 30, 2020) without having overspent our budget and in a good financial position. In the first six months of FY 2021 (July 1 to December 31, 2020) we've managed to stay on budget. We've had to make budgetary adjustments, but we are continuing to be in good shape.

**Susan Rao**, our fire district accountant, has done a substantial amount of work applying for reimbursements from FEMA and the Commonwealth to cover some of our COVID related costs. **Deputy Chief David Paananen** and **Lt. Kim Sylvia** were successful in getting us a \$3086 federal grant to purchase PPE.

The pandemic forced us to delay our annual fire district meeting from April 29, 2020 to May 20, 2020, and we had to hold the meeting outside in the parking lot with seats at 6' intervals. This year's annual fire district meeting is expected to be held on schedule, April 28, 2021, outside in the parking lot of the fire station.

Managing through the pandemic has been frustrating and tiring. Throughout the springtime the advice and guidance from the CDC, the federal government, and the state was conflicting and changing daily. The department constantly had to adjust operations to the latest guidance. I had to start each morning reading the latest from the CDC, the Department of Public Health, various fire chief associations, and the Governor's orders/statements. While we understood that our knowledge was

changing rapidly and that necessitated changing operations to match, it was the conflicting guidance and the politicization of the pandemic that made managing the department extra difficult.

From March 19<sup>th</sup> to June 30, 2020, I came to the fire station and worked every day – 104 days straight.

The WBFD was relatively fortunate that we did not experience any widespread outbreaks of COVID-19 among our staff. We have had seven members with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 2020. We had a few periods of quarantine for 6-8 members at a time. Even with this illness among our staff we were always able to meet our emergency response standards and obligations.



Throughout the pandemic of 2020 (and into 2021 – it's not over as I write this) I can't tell you enough how well our staff, career, part-time, and volunteer, rose to the challenges of 2020. No matter what barrier or peril was put in their way, they found a solution and met the mission. Despite extreme stress and anxiety, everyone did their jobs well. There were always more people than we needed to take on a mission. We found new ways to staff the station, we got out to deal with emergency calls as if nothing was wrong with the world, we found ways to train, and we pushed through it. As we go into 2021, the challenges are not abating. We are tired and worn, but we are going to succeed.

The greater West Barnstable Community was also supportive of the WBFD. In the first weeks of the pandemic when EMS PPE was hard to get, people came to the fire station donating N95 masks they had for their jobs or hobbies (such as sanding and painting). People brought us wonderful homemade masks, face shields, sanitizers, and food. Thank you for all of your support and confidence.

### **The Fire Trucks & Replacing ET-296**

In 2020, the department continued to plan for replacement of our quint/ladder truck (L-297) and our 35 year old engine-tanker (ET-296).

Last year you approved \$50,000 for the department to purchase a used engine to replace the quint (L-297) because the cost of repairing and maintaining the aerial device was too much. **Deputy Chief David Paananen**, along with **Firefighter Austin Moloney** and **Firefighter Steve Kilmurray**, looked at three used engines, one in Connecticut, one Massachusetts, and one in upstate New York. None were in good enough condition to be worth investing in. We continue to watch the used fire engine market for trucks that will fit our need and can be purchased at a low cost. A great number of trucks come up on the market, but many are in rough shape. However, we continue to pursue leads and keep an eye out for the right truck.

This year, the department is requesting \$650,000 to replace our 1985 Engine-Tanker (ET-296). We love this truck, but it is at the end of its effective life and we are probably on borrowed time. The manufacturer (Pierce Fire Apparatus) is no longer supporting maintenance for some of the truck's systems. Getting parts is becoming more difficult. It sprang multiple leaks that had to be patched in 2020.

More importantly, the truck lacks most of the safety features that we consider both routine and essential today. It still has open rear facing seats, instead of a fully enclosed cab. This is a hazard to firefighter safety because firefighters have fallen from these kinds of open seats and been struck by cars. These seats also lack crash protection for the firefighters riding in them. The truck doesn't have shoulder belts, only lap belts.

Engine-Tanker 296 doesn't have anti-lock brakes, stability control, air bags, or all of the other safety systems we've come to expect when driving. A practical problem this presents is that most of our apparatus drivers have little or no experience handling heavy trucks without these systems. For instance, very few people under age 50 have had any significant experience handling a skid without anti-lock brakes, especially in a truck that weighs 60,000 pounds.

ET-296 is one of the three critical pieces of fire apparatus at the Wbfd. It, Ambulance 293, and Engine 294 are the three key trucks to our operation. While we can effectively use surplus trucks and used trucks in support or secondary roles, these three should be purchased new. We need highly reliable trucks in these positions. We are best having trucks with longer life expectancies in these three spots. While our replacement for ET-296 is unlikely to last 35 years, it should last more than 20. Yes, I



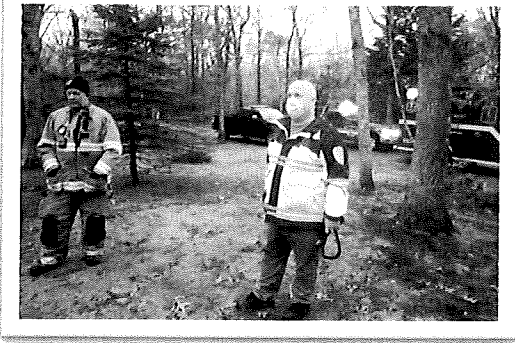
hate to use an old and worn slogan "They don't build them like they used to", but it's true. Fire apparatus today doesn't last as long as vintage trucks because of their reliance on technology, different metals and materials, and more wear from increased training and calls. The vehicle world is also changing faster than it used to, and vehicles and their systems become obsolete sooner.

ET-296 is a key truck for us because it carries 3000 gallons of water (the typical fire truck carries 750 gallons of water) and most of West Barnstable does not have fire hydrants. It is also important because it can function in the dual roles of water tanker and fire engine. It carries a crew of five and the basic hose, ladders, and tools needed for firefighting. Our other tanker, T-286, only carries water and isn't designed to function in a firefighting role.

The department asks that you appropriate \$650,000 at the Annual Fire District Meeting in order purchase the replacement engine-tanker. We are requesting to spend \$350,000 from fire district savings and borrow \$300,000 over ten years to pay for the truck. The \$350,000 from savings is expected to come \$100,000 from free cash, \$75,000 from our gift of funds account, \$90,000 from overlay surplus, and \$85,000 from our stabilization fund. Because it will take about 18 months (or more) from your authorization at district meeting to order, build and take delivery of the truck, payment for the truck is going to be due in FY 2022 or FY 2023, and the first loan payment of \$30,000 plus interest, will be due in FY 2023 or FY 2024.

Purchasing the truck will not require an increase in taxes over the next year or two. It may require an increase in the tax levy of \$30,000 in the first year that we make the first loan payment, unless we are then able to find an alternative source of the funding. After that first increase, additional





tax increases would not be necessary as the payments and interest should not change much from year to year.

We are currently paying back \$30,000 per year (plus interest) towards the 2017 purchase of Engine 294 back. We purchased E-294 with a similar \$300,000 loan paid over 10 years. We will make our last payment for E-294 in July 2027. I expect we will start making payments for ET-296 in July 2023 and continue until 2033. There will be a three or four year period

(depending on timing) when we are paying for both trucks.

**Deputy Chief Paananen** has written and submitted a grant application to FEMA for \$400,000 (the maximum FEMA will award for a tanker) towards the purchase of a replacement ET-296. If we get this grant, we won't have to borrow any money. However, federal fire truck grants are highly competitive and hard to get. FEMA only has \$100 million dollars a year to award, and while this seems like a lot of money, it is only 200 fire trucks for 30,000 fire departments. We requested this grant last year and did not get it.

If we replace Engine-Tanker 296 our "frontline fleet" or the key three trucks will have the following ages and replacement schedule:

Ambulance 293	New in 2017	Replace in 2027
Engine 294	New in 2017	Replace in 2032
Engine-Tanker 296	New in 2023	Replace in 2043

A more detailed apparatus replacement schedule and capital plan can be viewed on the fire district's website.

We hope that you will support this project.

### **Strategic Planning**

In 2019 and 2020, the WBFD completed a new strategic plan. About every five years the department creates and implements a strategic plan. The department implemented its first ever strategic plan in 2009 and its second plan in 2014.

The strategic plan was determined by a Strategic Planning Committee made up of five West Barnstable Citizens (unconnected to the fire department): **Andy Lee, Dan Develin, Holly Rogers, Dhiraj Malkani, and Dave Cameron**. The committee started working on the plan in the fall of 2019 with the goal of having the plan completed by July of 2020, but the pandemic made the process more difficult and the completion date of the plan was pushed back to the end of 2020. The 2021 to 2025 WBFD Strategic Plan was presented to the Prudential Committee on December 16, 2020 and the Prudential Committee formally approved it at their meeting on January 20, 2021.

The department also received a grant from AmeriCorps Cape Cod to provide a staff liaison to work with the Strategic Planning Committee. The value of the grant was about \$18,000 and AmeriCorps



assigned **Emily Smith**, a recent graduate of Clemson University, to work with us three days a week for about nine months. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused AmeriCorps to shut down operations in April and send its entire staff home. Our Strategic Planning Committee and fire department staff had to push on without her help.

The strategic planning process included meetings with fire department staff, local elected officials, citizens, partner agencies, and leaders of local institutions. At first these meetings were in-person, but in March they had to shift to online. The committee used a number of online surveys to gather information about the department. The planning committee asked the various stakeholders about the department's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as a way of gauging what we should be focusing on over the next five years.

The new strategic plans overall theme is for the department to sustain progress and engage in continuous improvement. It has three specific goals or actions:

1. Develop and execute a transition from Chief Joe Maruca<sup>1</sup> to Chief David Paananen.
2. Maintain the high level of performance currently provided by the Wbfd and enjoyed by the residents of West Barnstable.
3. Identify new revenue streams for the department.

A complete copy of the plan is available for viewing and downloading at the fire district's website.

### **The Budget**

Last year I predicted and you generously approved a 3% increase in the tax levy. I was wrong. The tax levy increase was in fact 1.8%. The department's annual tax levy increases have averaged about 2% per year over the past decade. This is less than would be allowed under Proposition 2 ½, if the fire district was subject to it. (The Commonwealth's 148 districts are not subject to Proposition 2 ½.)

This year, I am asking you to increase the tax levy by 3.5% at the Annual Fire District Meeting.

Much of the reason for this increase is found in Article 8 of the Fire District's proposed FY 2022 Budget. This is where the district funds its county retirement contributions, employee health insurance, retiree health insurance, general insurance (liability, auto, buildings), and OPEB Trust Fund. The expenses in this article are expected to rise by 16.7%. Fire department operations will increase by 1.9% in the FY 2022 budget.

Let me draw your attention to the OPEB Trust Fund Transfer/Contribution that is increasing from \$80,000 to \$129,000. This represents a 61.3% increase. OPEB stands for Other Post-Employment Benefits and it is one of the biggest financial challenges that you've probably never heard of. It translates into retiree health insurance costs.

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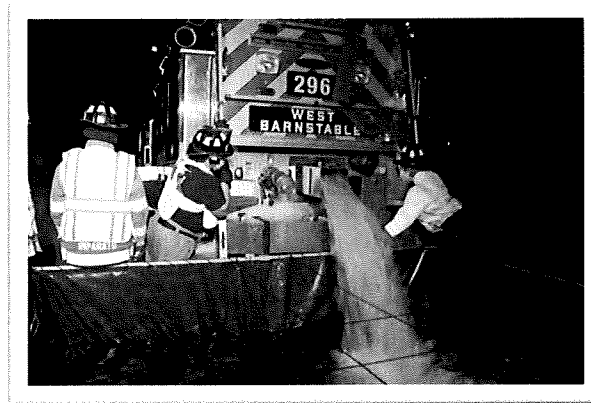
<sup>1</sup> Chief Maruca will be required by the Commonwealth's mandatory retirement laws to retire at age 65 in 2024.

When someone retires from a career position at the WBFD they are entitled to health insurance as part of their retirement benefit. The fire district pays for 75% of the retiree's health insurance and the retiree pays for 25%.

This health insurance benefit is not part of the Barnstable County Retirement Program and not paid for as part of the retirement system. The fire district is solely responsible for this retiree cost. (This is unlike the retirement system where the district and the employee make contributions over the course of retirement so that when they retire, the WBFD has no further financial obligation for their pension.)

Employees and spouses who are 65 years old and older are required to go on Medicare and the district provides a Medicare Supplemental Health Insurance Policy. Those under 65 years old are part of our regular health insurance plans. Massachusetts law allows for full retirement by police officers and firefighters at age 55, and requires career firefighters to retire at age 65.

In 2016, the fire district had one retired employee. He gets a Medicare Supplemental Health Insurance Policy. Back in 2016, the department's share of this policy was \$3500. Today, we have three retirees and two are under age 65. The combined cost of retiree health insurance in FY 2022 is projected to be \$38,568. When I retire in FY 2025 (the first full fiscal year after I retire), the department's retiree health insurance costs are estimated to increase to about \$78,707. Some of this is the anticipated rise in health insurance premiums for our existing retirees, but a big part of the increase is because I've moved to the retiree health category. And, since we'll hire someone new when I retire (at some level within the department), we don't gain any savings on the active employee health insurance side of the budget. My guess is that my insurance represents about \$15,000 of this increase.



By FY 2030, the fire district's retiree insurance could rise to \$157,000 per year depending upon when others choose or are forced to retire.

When you take into account that an annual 3% tax levy increase raises about \$45,000 per year for the district, you can see that increasing retiree health insurance costs are eating up some of our revenue growth in ways that didn't happen five and ten years ago. This creates a challenge.

Thirty years ago, the fire district should have started setting money aside (in a trust fund) to pay for retiree health insurance. Each time we added an employee, we should have set aside a small amount each year to build up the trust fund so that we could pay the retiree health insurance from the trust fund, not from annual operating funds. We didn't, and neither did any other city or town in Massachusetts --- this is a statewide financial problem. More than half of all cities, towns and districts

have nothing set aside for this. Being small, the impact of this problem is likely to hit us sooner than a bigger community that has the resources to pay as they go (at least for a few more years).

In 2016, we started setting aside money in an OPEB Trust Fund. A financial analysis of our situation indicates that we have an outstanding OPEB liability of around \$1.1 million (a moving target). This means that we need to be putting aside money each year to build up our trust fund to at least \$1.1 million, while simultaneously paying our current obligations. It looks like we need to start putting \$129,000 a year towards this – part to pay current obligations and the balance to pay down the liability and build up a fund for the future. This way, in a decade or so, we may be able to pay the retiree health insurance expenses entirely from the trust fund.

Otherwise, the WBFD budget doesn't do anything new. The operational budget for the fire department that consists of salaries, maintenance, training, supplies, administration, and all of our day to day expenses is increasing by 1.9% in the proposed FY 2022 budget.

### **Some Station Repairs**

You will also be asked to approve \$20,000 for fire station repairs. This will be Article 14 at the Fire District Annual Meeting. This money is planned for three small projects. We hope to make an upgrade to the fire sprinkler system, replace the ventilation hood over the stove, and continue replacing carpeting. The funds for this will come from savings (Free Cash).

Over the past three years, **Captain Bill Murray** has been leading a project to replace the 35 year old carpeting throughout the fire station. So far we've replaced carpeting in the bunk room, the training room, the stairs, and the communications room. We hope to tackle some of the offices next.

### **Where Have They Gone**

As has become a part of our annual routine, twelve members of the WBFD left us in 2020, most to become career firefighters. Here's where they all went:

Firefighter/Paramedics **Rebecca Tazel** and **Brendon MacDonald** both left the WBFD in 2020 to become career firefighters at the Hyannis Fire Department. Brendon and Rebecca had both served with the WBFD as volunteers since 2017.

**Jordan Leary**, a volunteer firefighter/EMT since 2017, left us to become a career firefighter with the Sandwich Fire Department.

Then, FF/EMT **Andrew Mandel**, our daytime career firefighter, also left to take a position with the Sandwich Fire Department. Andrew served eight years with the WBFD, first a volunteer, then as a part-time firefighter, and finally as a career firefighter. Andrew managed our personal protective clothing



cleaning, repair, inventory and purchasing system. He was also an accomplished driver/operator/engineer of all our apparatus.

Firefighter **Andrew Herges** left us because he was transferred by the Coast Guard to Virginia Beach. Andrew was with the department as volunteer firefighter for two years.

One of our newest volunteers, **Collin Sylvester** left us temporarily for US Marine Corps training and then returned before year end. We are glad to have him back, as we need him more than the Marines do. Collin served with the WBFD as a High School Intern before becoming a volunteer firefighter.

FF/EMT **Jeff Hall** headed down Cape and took a career firefighter position at the Wellfleet Fire Department after serving with the WBFD for two years. Next, FF/EMT **Sean Crimmins** headed south and took a job with the Alexandria, Virginia Fire Department. Sean had joined the WBFD as a volunteer in 2018. **Mario Cameron** headed across the Sound and accepted a full-time position with the Nantucket Fire Department after volunteering with us for less than a year.

Volunteer Firefighter **Nicole Parrish**, a member of the 2020 Recruit Class, finished training and was actively serving, when she to leave the department to go to Rhode Island to care for a family member. We hope she'll be able to return to the WBFD someday.

Next up, volunteer firefighters **Tony O'Donnell** and **Ben Stacey** were both hired for career firefighter positions at the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Department, starting at the same time in November. Ben served at the WBFD for three years and Tony served for two years.



Our final loss of the year was when Firefighter/Paramedic **Steven Kilmurray** took a position with the Sandwich Fire Department. Steve joined us as a volunteer in 2017. He was an accomplished driver/operator/engineer of all our trucks, a fire instructor, and filled our Saturday daytime position.

There is not one of these twelve firefighters that left in 2020 that we wouldn't love to have back. They were all highly qualified, great performers, and a pleasure to work with. We wish them all the best in their future careers.

For years we tried to fight the tide and figure out ways to avoid having our firefighters hired away from us by other departments. Today, we have come to understand that we can't beat it. Massive external social and economic conditions drive this pattern. It is also a problem that is not unique to the WBFD. Many other similar sized departments in the region report the same pattern of having their volunteers hired away from them. At the moment, career departments are reporting a



shortage of paramedics and others to fill positions at their departments, so volunteer department staff are becoming a greater target for hiring.

Since we can't fight it, we've come to accept it as a reality and have designed and implemented recruitment and training systems to compensate for this annual loss of our volunteers. Each year, we accept applications for volunteer firefighter or EMS provider on a rolling basis. Each winter we hold an applicant orientation session for

all of the applicants and tell them about what it means to be a member of the Wbfd. We typically have 20 to 30 applicants each year. Next, we do a physical agility test and written test with all of the applicants, followed by interviews. We hire 8 to 12 new members each spring and start them in a recruit firefighter class taught by Wbfd members. **Captain Troy Jewett** is our Recruit Training Officer and manages the annual training program. All of these new firefighters are trained to national standards (NFPA 1001) and pass the Firefighter Certification Exam given by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

### New Members

In April 2020, the Wbfd added ten new volunteer firefighters and started our newest recruit firefighter class. Initially, the training started via Zoom in order to manage COVID-19 Pandemic safety, but as the weather improved we were able to shift to outdoor training for the late spring and summer.



Of the ten new volunteers, nine completed their initial training and started responding to emergency calls. They are scheduled to take their Firefighter I & II certification exam at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in February 2021.

The ten new members of the Wbfd recruit class are **Mario Cameron, Abby Corey, Christina Dauley, Luke Fancy, Jeff Grenglas, Abijah Herrin, Mike Kent, Dan King, Nicole Parrish, and Riley Tebo**. In addition, **Collin Sylvester**, one of our high school interns, joined us after returning from USMC training and is now serving with us. (**Abby Corey** and **Collin Sylvester** both graduated from Barnstable High School in 2020.)

**Aaron Stewart**, a former member of the Wbfd returned to our ranks in 2020. He relocated back to Cape Cod after having moved to Boston. It's always great to get back someone we trained. Aaron was able to pick up where he left off and is assigned to Group 3.

## Promotions

**Lt. Luke Walsh**, our Group 3 Executive Officer, was hired by the department to fill the full-time dayshift position vacated by Andrew Mandel (who went to the Sandwich FD). Lt. Walsh is a driver-operator of all of our apparatus and in paramedic school. We expect he'll be a licensed paramedic in 2021.

To fill the position vacated by Lt Walsh, volunteer firefighter **Christian Andrewski** was promoted to lieutenant. Christian has been with the WBFD since 2015. He serves as the Executive Officer of Group 3.

## Fixing the Stained Glass Window

Over the summer, firefighters **Jason Stoots, Stephen Brunelle, Tony O'Donnell, Luke Walsh, and Kevin Young** removed the stained glass window over the apparatus bays, repaired the frame, and remounted the window. The window was sagging in its frame and there was some rot in the trim. The project took a few weeks.



## New All-Hazards Truck – Forestry 295

The WBFD added a new truck to its fleet in 2020. It is an all-hazards truck built on a military 5-Ton 6-wheel drive chassis. This truck replaces our Brush Breaker 295. The truck is designed to handle a variety of special incidents including wildland/brush fires, RV & cottage fires on Sandy Neck, flood water operations, deep snow/blizzard responses, and anything where a regular fire truck can't get to.

About half of West Barnstable is open space, beaches, and areas that are difficult to access.

The truck carries 600 gallons of water and can supply a hose line at 150 gallons of water per minute. This is a sufficient flow for a vehicle fire or small structure fire. It is equipped as a "Type 3" forestry truck for wildland/brush fires. It has a system to automatically deflate and inflate its tires for faster access to the beach. The truck was provided to us free of charge through the Federal Excess Property Program and it was built in 1997. The WBFD added to the truck a pre-built "skid unit" consisting of the water tank, pump, and hose & reel that cost \$17,200. We also added some truck boxes to hold tools and equipment. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) contributed \$2000 through the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program towards the truck.

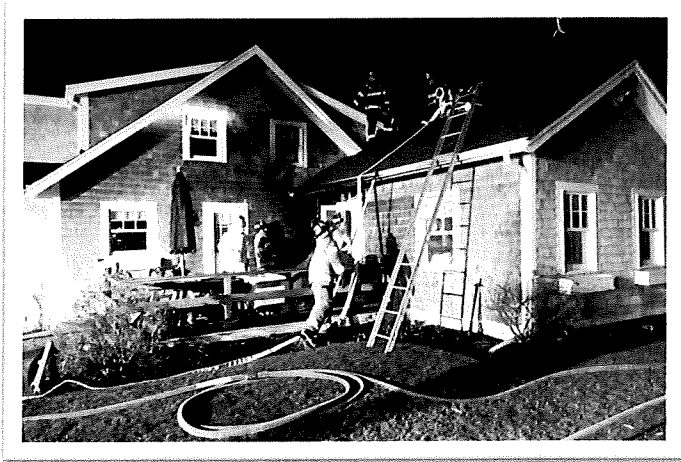


**Deputy Chief Paananen, Captain Troy Jewett, and FF Andy Heckler** contributed a great deal of work installing equipment, warning lights and radios on this truck. **Matt Handley, of A&H Recon** in Falmouth, repaired and tested all of the mechanical systems on the truck and installed the truck boxes for us. In all, the department spent about \$25,000 building this truck. If we had purchased one new from a fire truck manufacturer, we would have spent \$150,000 to as much as \$300,000 for something that does the same thing.

This truck greatly improves our capabilities off-road, on the beach, during storms, and in the woods.

### Changing Community Events

The pandemic caused the Wbfd to change how we provide for community events. Three big annual events, the West Barnstable Community Spaghetti Supper, the Wbfd Halloween Safety Day, and the Wbfd Breakfast with Santa all had to be canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Firefighters adapted and were able to put on a new Halloween Event. Instead of families coming to the fire station, the firefighters went to the families. On Halloween, the Wbfd put on a Reverse Halloween where we went house to house in the fire trucks delivering candy to families. The event seems to have been met with great enthusiasm. It went so well that it might even become a regular event.

Breakfast with Santa was replaced in partnership with Luke's Love. A Santa Caravan was organized to substitute for Luke's Love's annual Santa Event at the playground and the Wbfd's breakfast event. Santa toured the village streets greeting families from the Wbfd's antique fire engine followed by a caravan of cars and trucks from Luke's Love, the Wbfd, and A Baby Center (ABC) of Hyannis. ABC was collecting donations for families in need.

Over the holidays, the department was able to serve as a collection point for the Salvation Army Food Pantry, Toys for Tots, and pet food collections for the Cape Cod Disaster Animal Rescue Team (CCDART). This year's food pantry collection was much bigger than in the past, with the department making three trips of food to the pantry. The department collected 294 toys for Toys for Tots.

The department was also able to hold its Annual Christmas Tree Sale at the old fire station on RT 6A. This year, we had to find a new tree supplier, and 2021 will also be a tough year to get trees to sell. As of this moment, we don't have a supplier of trees lined up.

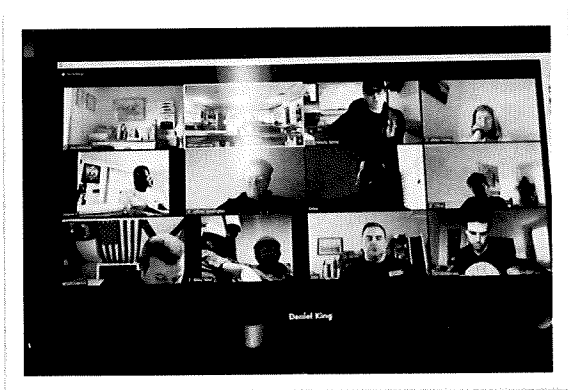


## ....Of The Year Awards

The 2020 WBFD Firefighter of the Year is Firefighter/EMT **Austin Moloney**. Austin is a volunteer member of the department who joined us in 2019. Austin is described by his fellow firefighters as good person, hard worker, smart and kind. He is committed to the mission and always ready to train and help others. He drives all of our trucks. He's fun to work with.

The WBFD EMT of the Year 2020 goes to **Austin Osborn**. Austin's is a volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic who has been with the WBFD since 2019. He keeps his composure at the worst of calls and provides outstanding patient care. He's dedicated; he's always looking to improve himself and others.

**Lieutenant Curtis Cottrell** wins 2020 WBFD Fire Officer of the Year. Firefighters describe Lt. Cottrell as calm and effective in difficult situations, and that he makes everyone a member of the team. He is always helping others and makes time to listen. Curtis is a career member of the department, having started with the WBFD in 2015 as volunteer firefighter.



The department usually has an annual awards dinner at the West Barnstable Deer Club on Super Bowl Eve. This year, the pandemic forced us to change things up. We had to give out the awards during a department wide Zoom meeting. We are planning a follow-up outdoor event in the spring.

### 15 Years as Chief

It was 2005 when I was promoted from Volunteer Fire Captain to Chief of Department. At the time, I made a five year commitment. I thought after five years I would have accomplished my goals with the department and return to practicing law. I'm still working on some of those goals, and now feel the clock is ticking against me. Massachusetts law will require me to retire on my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024. I plan to use these next three years to focus on training the department's leadership to take over. In particular and in alignment with the Strategic Plan, I'll be working with Deputy Chief David Paananen so he is ready to serve as our next fire chief.

The year 2020 was definitely not the year to be fire chief. I don't think any of us ever envisioned having to lead our departments through a pandemic. It's not something that was on the radar screen. It's been physically and mentally difficult. Fortunately, the staff of the WBFD has done a great job throughout the pandemic. We've all been under tremendous stress. It was challenging to continue providing service and keeping our operations going at time when it seemed everything around us was shutting down. I think we were successful.

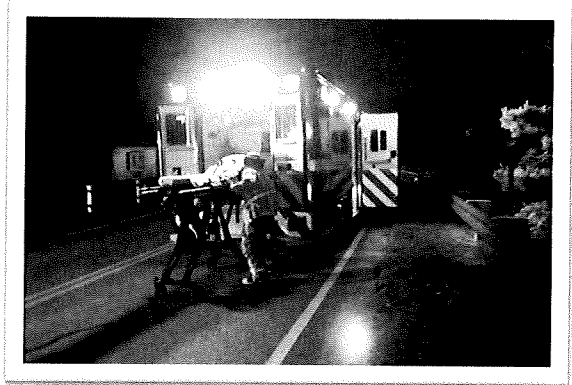
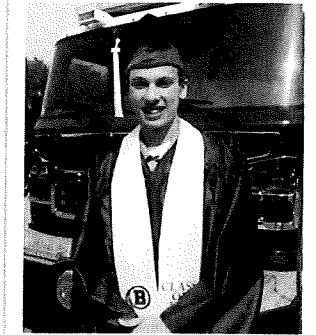
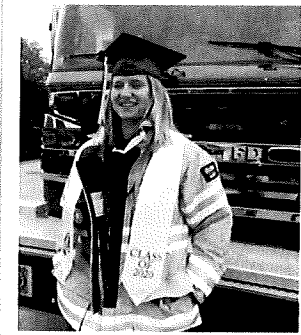
Looking ahead to 2021 is difficult. It isn't clear when we'll be able to step back from pandemic operations. I'm hopeful that we'll be back to a more normal world by summer, but I'm seeing mixed signals. I worry about the physical and emotional toll that our firefighter and EMS responders are taking as this pandemic wears on. It's also hard to measure and manage our operations because we don't know what changes in our financial situation and emergency response numbers really mean. We can't tell if we are seeing one-time pandemic related changes, or if changes are part of general trend. It's hard to sit and wait another year to see what things look like.

I still very much enjoy being chief of the West Barnstable Fire Department. There's no other fire department I'd like to lead. We are fortunate to have the best trained and most motivated firefighters of any department I've ever encountered. Nobody does what we do better than us.

If you have any thoughts or questions about the WBFD or this report, please feel free to contact me. I'm always available and happy to discuss what we do, how we do it, and why.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph V. Maruca, Fire Chief



**West Barnstable Fire District  
Calls by Type**

Type of Call	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Animal Rescue	-	1	3	3	-	6
Assist Police / Other Government Agencies	104	9	15	8	10	6
Automatic Fire Alarm	57	53	71	69	61	76
Boat Fire	-	1	-	-	-	1
Burning Without a Permit	11	7	6	8	3	3
Carbon Monoxide	2	7	7	6	2	2
Cellar/Water Pumping	-	4	5	7	1	4
Dumpster Fire	-	-	-	-	-	1
Elevator Rescue	1	-	2	3	-	1
EMS	253	308	309	302	319	379
Explosion/Rupture/Overhead	1	7	2	4	2	2
Hazmat	10	8	11	11	9	12
High-angle Rescue	-	-	-	-	1	-
Missing Person	1	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Crashes versus Pedestrian	-	2	-	2	2	1
Motor Vehicle Crashes with Injury	27	24	29	32	24	23
Motor Vehicle Crashes without Injury	16	18	27	22	20	28
Motor Vehicle Fire	2	2	4	7	3	3
Mutual Aid - EMS	18	18	25	23	30	45
Mutual Aid - Fire	11	18	10	4	17	9
Mutual Aid - MVC	4	8	5	15	10	19
Mutual Aid - Other	10	13	11	11	25	18
Mutual Aid - Coverage	3	16	10	10	18	15
Oil Burner Malfunction	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other	2	2	1	-	1	1
Outside Equipment Fire	2	1	-	-	-	-
Prescribed Fire (Local and Regional)	4	2	-	2	3	10
Public Assist	21	29	38	26	21	34
Ring or Jewelry Removal	-	-	1	1	3	4
Smoke in the Building	2	5	3	-	3	3
Standby/Coverage	-	1	-	-	1	1
Structure Fire	3	2	3	4	-	3
Structure Fire - Chimney Fire	-	-	-	2	1	-
Structure Fire - Cooking Fire	5	1	2	1	2	2
Structure Fire - Electrical Fire	5	5	5	2	2	6
Structure Fire - Trash Fire	-	-	-	1	1	-
Unfounded/Mistakes/False	23	18	22	20	21	22
Utility Pole Fire/Wires Down	15	5	16	10	4	10
Water Rescue	-	1	-	2	-	4
Weather Emergencies	7	6	9	2	-	1
Wildland Fires	9	7	8	8	9	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>760</b>

**Comments**

The 104 Assist Police/Other Government Agencies represents the department's participation in managing the COVID-19 Test Site at Cape Cod Community College.

**West Barnstable Fire District  
Overtime Hours by Type**

<b>Fiscal Year 2020 Hours</b>													
<b>Overtime Type</b>	<b>Jul 19</b>	<b>Aug 19</b>	<b>Sep 19</b>	<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Nov 19</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>	<b>Jan 20</b>	<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>Mar 20</b>	<b>Apr 20</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>Jun 20</b>	<b>Total</b>
Emergency Calls	131	154	138	75	77	50	78	79	109	35	67	71	1,063
Shift Cov-Monday	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov-Vac	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	54	20	24	122
Shift Cov-Sick-Doc	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	24	2	-	37
Shift Cov-Injury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov	128	110	84	71	-	44	76	59	238	94	195	329	1,427
Shift Cov-Meetings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov-Jury Duty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov-Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	48	47	43	74	217
Shift Cov-Fire Prev.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov-Detail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov-Fire Acad.	8	-	72	192	144	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	416
Shift Cov-Bereave	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov-Retirement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov-Holiday	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shift Cov-Cis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training	27	53	32	31	69	27	103	62	-	-	-	-	402
Fire Prevention	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	19
Storm Coverage	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Special Detail	10	12	15	8	-	-	-	27	8	11	17	-	107
COVID Detail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	34	19	26	97
Staff Mtg.	6	-	4	4	-	-	-	1	4	-	10	-	29
Court Appearance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hiring Committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	12	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>3,995</b>

<b>Historical Hours</b>													
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>FY20</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>3,995</b>
FY19	347	350	402	420	439	378	433	420	518	462	523	490	5,178
FY18	309	321	353	339	341	316	473	330	434	442	523	459	4,639
FY17	513	391	353	326	359	382	462	375	310	458	446	474	4,846
FY16	305	310	484	486	466	384	290	386	279	248	424	452	4,511
FY15	297	258	484	437	407	341	524	351	487	324	429	513	4,849
FY14	423	319	304	382	403	423	462	318	300	309	438	361	4,439
FY13	282	296	321	463	335	234	367	450	380	436	358	419	4,336
FY12	322	448	384	407	414	359	435	240	387	415	418	428	4,655

**Comments**

2020 resulted in less overtime than any recent year. This is more likely a result of having none of staff out with injuries, or having to fill any vacancies. There were fewer emergency calls requiring overtime (probably pandemic related) that also had some effect on this. The pandemic reduced training hours and that translated somewhat into lower overtime costs.

**West Barnstable Fire District  
Training Hours  
2020**

		Actual Hours												Total		
Name	Rank	Full Year	Fire Training	Hazmat Training	Driver Training	New			MVC/				Total Hours	Fitness/ PT	Hours with PT	
						Driver Training	Officer Training	Recruit Training	EMS	Extrication	Wildland / Brush	Other				
<b>Command Staff</b>																
Maruca, Joseph	Chief	Yes	54	10	-	-	20	11	15	3	-	8	120	-	120	
Paananen, David	Deputy	Yes	28	6	5	-	6	3	9	-	-	7	62	-	62	
Jewett, Troy	Capt.	Yes	121	8	41	-	11	4	7	3	12	6	212	11	223	
Murray, William	Capt.	Yes	115	11	40	-	2	12	18	3	1	5	206	21	226	
Cottrell, Curtis	Lieut.	Yes	89	15	70	-	12	7	21	3	1	9	226	12	238	
Sylvia, Kimberly	Lieut.	Yes	115	8	19	-	66	21	93	3	-	178	503	6	509	
Diaz, Ian	Lieut.	Yes	88	16	9	-	2	7	11	3	11	4	150	9	159	
Frye, Steven	Lieut.	Yes	111	10	63	-	10	12	17	3	15	15	255	11	265	
Garofoli, John	Lieut.	Yes	73	8	11	-	-	8	11	3	11	9	133	4	137	
Walsh, Luke	Lieut.	Yes	63	15	15	-	11	12	15	-	1	4	134	-	134	
Mandel, Andrew	Engineer	No	27	-	-	-	4	-	2	4	-	1	37	-	37	
<b>Firefighters/EMTs</b>																
Andrewski, Christian		Yes	71	5	28	-	-	-	17	-	1	6	127	2	129	
Antoine, Matthew		Yes	118	10	38	-	-	23	23	3	21	4	240	16	256	
Brunelle, Stephen		Yes	45	4	14	-	-	13	6	-	11	-	92	12	104	
Cikins, Matthew		Yes	77	8	31	-	2	-	13	3	12	6	151	6	156	
Crosby, Robert		Yes	49	10	14	-	-	-	13	3	1	4	94	-	94	
Crowl, Devon		Yes	87	6	28	-	1	14	13	3	13	5	167	16	183	
DiPilato, Ryan		Yes	96	8	32	-	-	20	18	3	11	3	190	14	203	
Drew, Craig		Yes	53	8	14	-	-	12	4	-	-	-	91	18	109	
Flynn, Kevin		Yes	15	-	-	-	-	8	4	-	10	-	36	12	48	
Gallagher, Connor		Yes	23	8	2	-	-	-	10	3	-	4	49	4	53	
Herbert, Molly		Yes	62	8	38	-	-	4	17	3	1	5	137	-	137	
Imparato, Stephen		Yes	97	6	25	-	-	11	20	3	2	7	169	18	186	
Longo, Edward		Yes	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8	
Looney, Michael		Yes	60	8	10	-	-	-	11	3	-	5	96	6	102	
Melanson, Stephanie		Yes	49	2	4	-	3	4	11	-	-	2	75	3	77	
Moloney, Austin		Yes	94	8	35	-	-	15	16	3	12	5	187	16	202	
Murray, Seamus		Yes	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	6	
Osborn, Austin		Yes	169	10	70	-	2	25	77	3	22	8	386	16	401	
Robbins, Jonathan		Yes	93	12	35	-	-	8	20	3	8	7	185	84	269	
Stoots, Jason		Yes	46	8	6	-	-	-	8	-	1	5	73	2	74	
Wasierski, Thomas		Yes	12	4	1	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	26	-	26	
Wedge, Joshua		Yes	52	2	14	-	-	-	9	-	-	6	82	-	82	
Young, Kevin		Yes	35	8	1	-	1	-	15	-	10	4	73	-	73	
Cameron, Mario		No	62	4	3	-	-	24	14	3	4	2	116	-	116	
Corey, Abby		No	108	4	-	25	-	27	14	-	4	8	189	-	189	
Crimmins, Sean		No	41	6	4	-	-	12	12	-	2	2	78	11	89	
Crosby, Crosby		No	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	
Dauley, Christina		No	60	7	-	7	-	25	10	3	-	5	115	-	115	
Desharnais, Tyler		No	5	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	18	-	18	
Fancy, Luke		No	87	5	-	11	-	25	10	3	-	8	148	-	148	
Gruenglas, Jeff		No	94	7	-	7	1	26	11	3	4	6	157	-	157	
Hall, Jeffrey		No	35	6	3	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	48	-	48	
Haughton, Brandon		No	29	4	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	42	8	49	
Herrin, Abijah		No	96	3	-	19	-	26	14	3	5	4	168	2	170	
Kent, Mike		No	95	5	13	-	-	25	12	3	4	6	161	-	161	
Kilmurray, Steven		No	115	8	72	-	1	8	22	3	1	4	233	16	249	
King, Daniel		No	106	7	-	7	-	26	12	3	4	5	168	2	170	
Leary, Jordan		No	21	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	-	27	-	27	
Macdonald, Brendan		No	13	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	17	-	17	
Murray		No	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	
O'Connor, Chris		No	13	-	5	-	-	-	7	-	10	2	36	5	40	
O'Connor, Fred		No	20	-	-	-	-	5	6	-	10	-	40	4	43	
O'Donnell, Anthony		No	63	4	17	-	-	16	10	-	10	2	121	9	130	
Parrish, Nicole		No	45	4	-	-	-	15	8	-	-	2	73	-	73	
Stacy, Benjamin		No	57	6	1	-	-	4	9	-	11	-	87	4	91	
Stewart, Aaron		No	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	17	2	18	
Sylvester, Connor		No	52	3	-	6	-	11	-	-	-	4	74	-	74	
Tatzel, Rebecca		No	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Tebow, Riley		No	16	-	-	-	-	13	3	-	-	-	32	-	32	
<b>Auxiliary/Seasonal</b>																
Heckler, Andrew		N/A	43	10	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	7	71	-	71	
Smith, Emily		N/A	9	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	14	-	14	
Monterrey, Alex		N/A	6	4	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	14	-	14	
<b>Total Actual Training Hours</b>			<b>3,584</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>7,036</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>7,408</b>	
<b>Average Training Hours for Full Year</b>			<b>69</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>153</b>	

## 2021 REPORT OF WHELDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

On behalf of the Officers, Trustees and Staff of Whelden Memorial Library I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the West Barnstable Fire District Prudential Committee, Fire Chief Joe Maruca and the citizens of the West Barnstable Fire District for their continued support of the library.

Thanks to you and your support, we were able to not just survive, but thrive this year. While the building was closed, the library remained open. At first, it was through our digital services that we are able to use because of our membership in good standing with the consortium and with the State Library Commission. Our digital usage increased over 50%. We were able to place ebooks, digital audio books and magazines into our patrons' hands. The library director maintained hours at the library staffing the phone to answer patrons' questions. With spring came physical book circulation, and we found that our patrons were so appreciative of our curbside services. Through Zoom and Facebook Live, we were able to have story times and programs for all ages. Our newsletter and facebook posts promoted not just our programs, but those within the community.

Our focus became more started taking the library contacting all of the area to see if there were could provide them to help budgets. We added a digital Whelden patrons instant ebooks, audio books, music, Little Black Pantry outside in our community that may privately help themselves to provided by others. Looking a partnership with the



outward centered. We into the community by preschools and local BWB programs or materials we with the tightening of service that allowed access to thousands of TV shows and movies. Our was designed to help those have food insecurities food items generously ahead, we have established YMCA to provide summer

reading programs to their campers. Not to diminish the pain that COVID has cost us all, but COVID has also made us rethink how best to provide our services to the West Barnstable community.

With your support, we continue to strive to offer the best services, programs, and materials. Please keep up-to-date with all events and activities by visiting the new West Barnstable Community Calendar on our website [www.wheldenlibrary.org](http://www.wheldenlibrary.org) or signing up for our newsletter!

At this year's Annual District Meeting, we are again asking citizens of the West Barnstable Fire District to support an appropriation of \$15,000 for Fiscal Year 2022, the same amount as requested last year.

With sincere gratitude, we thank all of you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Depin, Director, Whelden Memorial Library

**FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT of the  
WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT**

March 1, 2021

To: Elaine L. Grace, Clerk of the West Barnstable Fire District

Greetings:

You are hereby directed to notify the voters of the West Barnstable Fire District to meet at the **West Barnstable Fire Station, 2160 Meetinghouse Way** (Route 149), West Barnstable, Massachusetts, on **Wednesday, April 28, 2021** between the hours of **5:00 PM** and **7:00 PM** to bring their votes for the following officers:

**One Prudential Committee member for three (3) years  
One Water Commissioner for three (3) years**

And immediately thereafter to meet and act upon the following **Articles**:

**Article 1.** To act upon the **2020 Reports of the Officers**, including the minutes of the previous Annual District meeting, as printed in the **2020 Annual Report**, and distributed to the voters of the West Barnstable Fire District. **(Prudential Committee recommends favorable action).**

**Article 2.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the **2022 Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021**, in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and acts in amendment thereof, and including in addition thereto, Chapter 849 of the Acts of 1969, as amended, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of one year or less in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17. **(Prudential Committee recommends favorable action.)**

**Article 3.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds in **Fiscal Year 2022** for streetlight service or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)).**

**Article 4.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds in **Fiscal Year 2022** for debt service or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) and raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$2,415.00) for a total sum of Thirty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$32,415.00)).**

**Article 5.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate and transfer or appropriate for District salaries from available funds in **Fiscal Year 2022** for the following officers: Moderator, District Treasurer, District Accountant, District Clerk, Prudential Committee, and Records Access Officer or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty-three Dollars (\$58,183.00))**

**Article 6.** To see what sum of money the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds for the ordinary operating expenses of the District in **Fiscal Year 2022** or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-nine Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-eight Dollars (\$49,228.00)).**

**Article 7.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds for the operation of the West Barnstable Fire Department in **Fiscal Year 2022**, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Fire Chief, or to take any action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Eighty-nine Thousand One Hundred Three Dollars (\$1,489,103.00)).**

**Article 8.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds to fund miscellaneous district obligations in **Fiscal Year 2022** or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars (\$424,899.00), transfer and appropriate from the OPEB Trust Fund the sum of Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$38,569.00) and transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) for a total sum of Five Hundred Three Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Eight Dollars (\$503,468.00)).**

**Article 9.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds to the Reserve Fund in **Fiscal Year 2022** or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00)).**

**Article 10.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds to the Stabilization Fund in **Fiscal Year 2022** or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash, the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for the General Stabilization Fund, the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) for the Ambulance Stabilization Fund and the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the Critical Health/Illness Fund for a total sum of Fifty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$57,500.00)).**



**Article 11.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds in **Fiscal Year 2022** to fund a financial audit of the West Barnstable Fire District for the **Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021**, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$15,000.00)).**

**Article 12.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds in **Fiscal Year 2022** for Whelden Memorial Library services, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)).**

**Article 13.** To see what sum the District will vote in **Fiscal Year 2022** to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate to replace Engine-Tanker #296 or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), borrow and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00), transfer and appropriate from the Gift of Funds also known as the Bailey Fund Seventy Five Thousand Dollars the sum of (\$75,000.00), transfer and appropriate from the General Stabilization Fund the sum of Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00) and transfer and appropriate from the Overlay Surplus Allowance the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) for a total sum of Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000.00)).**

**Article 14.** To see what sum the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds in **Fiscal Year 2022** for miscellaneous capital repairs at the West Barnstable Fire Station Headquarters. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)).**

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting a copy thereof at the United States Post Office in West Barnstable, Whelden Memorial Library, and the West Barnstable Fire Headquarters, all located in West Barnstable, Massachusetts within said District, at least seven (7) days before the date of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2021.

Prudential Committee  
West Barnstable Fire District

W. Van Northcross, Chair  
Edward C. Smith  
Stuart Schulman

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:  
Elaine L. Grace, District Clerk  
West Barnstable Fire District

# WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

12/31/2020

<b>Fire Chief</b>
Joe Maruca

<b>Deputy Fire Chief</b>
Dave Paananen

<b>Non- Group Firefighters</b>	
LT EMTB	Luke Walsh
ENG EMTB	Kevin Young

<b>Department Administration</b>	
Admin. Asst.	Heather Scozzarella
Maint. Chief	Joe Queenan
Human Res.	Walter Lesiak
Co. Training	Roger Henson

<b>Chief's Aide</b>	
FF EMTB	Andy Heckler

<b>Leave</b>	
FF	Charles Schneckloth

<b>Leaving</b>	

<b>GROUP 1</b>		<b>DRIVER</b>
LT EMTB	Curtis Cottrell	3 4 6 7
LT	John Garofoli	3 4 6 7
ENG trainee	Jonathan Robbins	3 4 6 7
FF EMTB	Robert Crosby	3 6
FF/EMTB	Christina Dauley	Probie
FT	Luke Fancy	Probie
FF/EMTB	Michael Kent	Probie
EMTB	Seamus Murray	
FF/EMTB	Chris O'Connor	3 6 7
FF/EMTP	Austin Osborn	3 4 6 7
FF EMTB	Thomas Wasierski	3 6

<b>GROUP 2</b>		<b>DRIVER</b>
LT EMTB	Kimberly Sylvia	3 4 6 7
LT EMTB	Steve Frye	3 4 6 7
ENG EMTB	Steph Melanson	3 4 6 7
ENG trainee	Stephen Imparato	3 4 6
FF/EMTB	Matt Antoine	3 6
FF	Matt Cikins	3 4 6 7
FF EMTB	Craig Drew	Probie
FF EMTB	Molly Hebert	3 6
FF/EMTB	Abijah Herrin	Probie
FT	Daniel King	Probie
FF/EMTB	Michael Looney	3 6

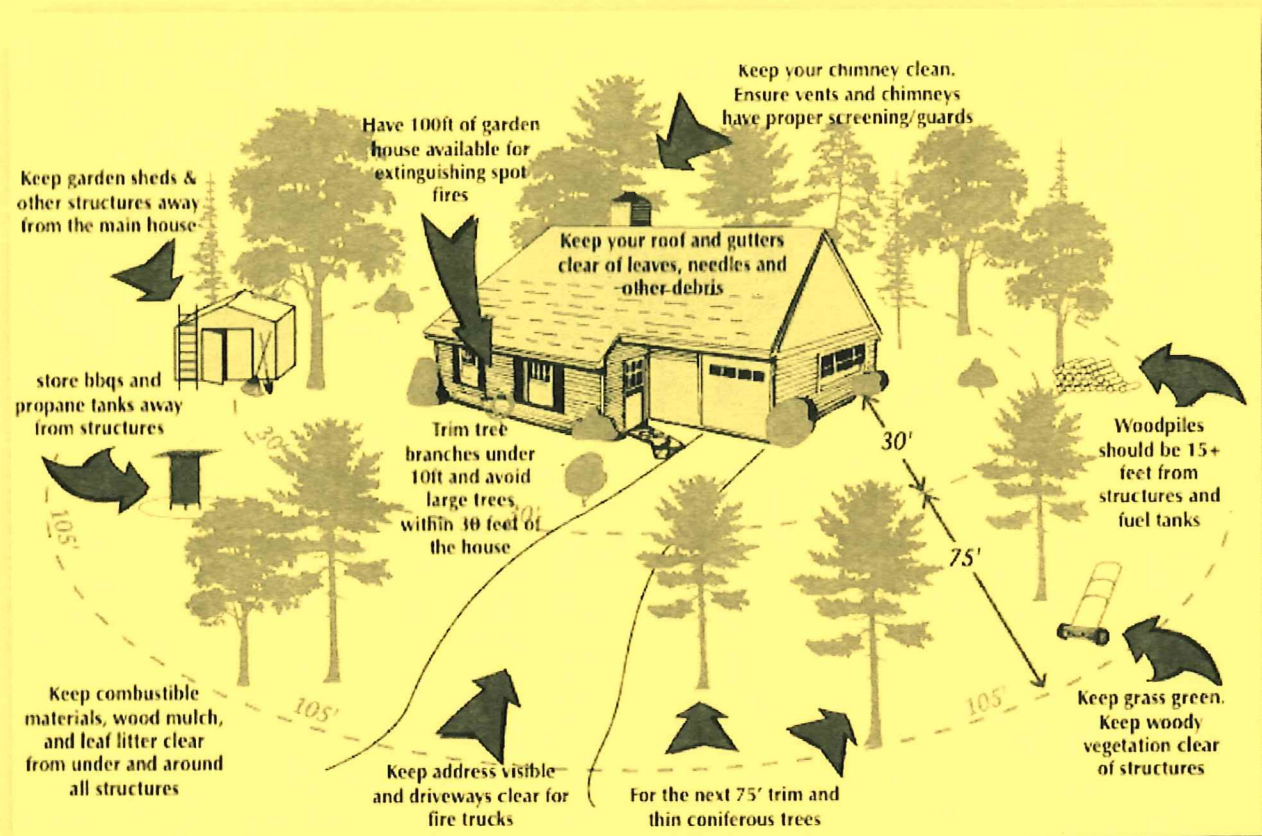
<b>Firefighter Trainees</b>	

<b>GROUP 3</b>			<b>DRIVER</b>
CAPT EMTB	William Murray		3 4 5 6 7
LT EMTB	Christian Andrewski		3 4 6 7
ENG trainee	Jason Stoots		3 4 6 7
FF/EMTB	Stephen Brunelle		3 6
FF/EMTB	Ryan DiPilato		3 4 6
FF	Aaron Stewart		3
FT	Collin Sylvester		Trainee
FF	Joshua Wedge		3 6

<b>GROUP 4</b>			<b>DRIVER</b>
CAPT EMTB	Troy Jewett		3 4 5 6 7
LT EMTB	Ian Diaz		3 4 6 7
ENG EMTB	Edward Longo		3 4 6 7
ENG EMTB	Austin Moloney		3 4 6 7
FT	Abigale Corey		3
FF/EMTB	Devon Crowl		3 4 6
FF	Conner Gallagher		3 6
FF/EMTB	Jeffrey Gruenglas		Probie

# Protect Your Home From Wildfires

West Barnstable is in a High Risk Area for Wildfire



West Barnstable Fire & EMS Association  
2160 Meetinghouse Way  
P.O. Box 955  
West Barnstable, MA 02668



Like us on  
**Facebook**

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WEST BARNSTABLE, MA  
02668

POSTAL PATRON  
WEST BARNSTABLE, MA 02668

# Annual Meeting Voting & Meeting

APRIL 28, 2021

Voting from 5-7 PM & Meeting begins 7 PM

**West Barnstable FIRE STATION**

**2160 Meetinghouse Way, West Barnstable, MA**