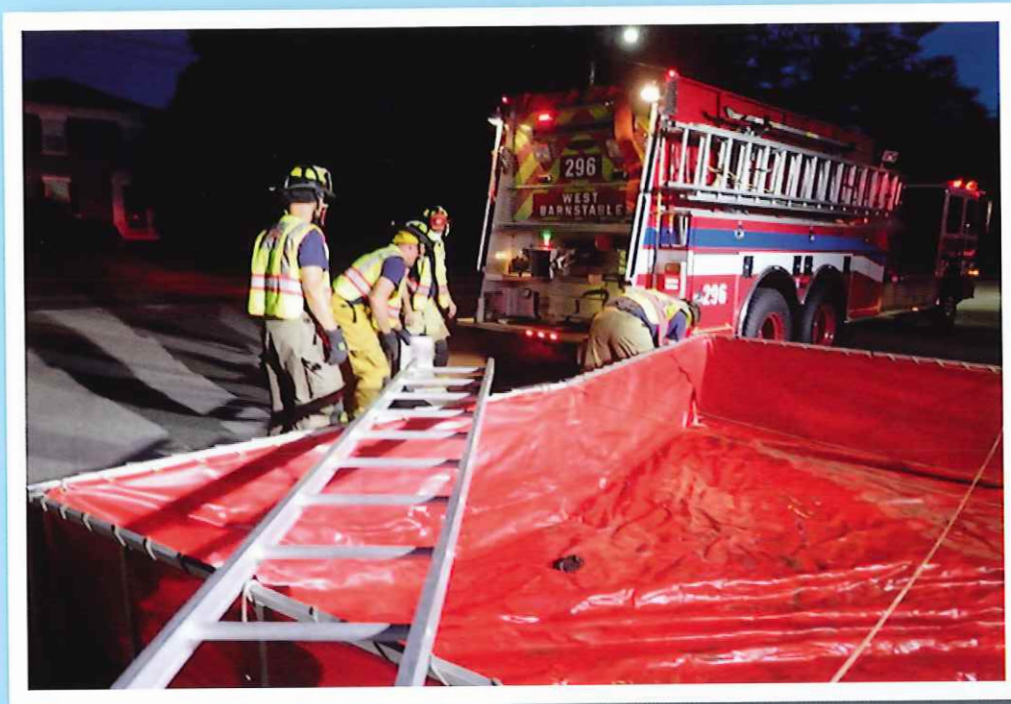


West Barnstable Fire District

Established July 12, 1949 by Chapter 107 Acts of 1949



2023 Annual Reports

FY 2025

Annual Fire District Meeting Warrant

**Annual Fire District Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – 7:00 PM
West Barnstable Community Building**

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

Fire District Meeting at 7:00 PM



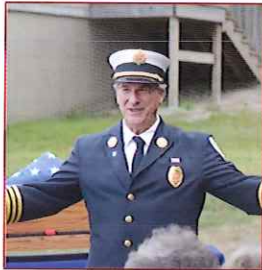
West Barnstable Fire Department

Change of Command and Chief Joe Maruca's Retirement

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Fire Station Open House – 2:00 PM

Come by the fire station and meet the new leadership team of Chief David Paananen and Deputy Chief Todd Brunelle. Wish Chief Maruca a happy retirement.



Change of Command Ceremony – 4:00 PM

Chief Joe Maruca will formally transfer command of the department to Chief David Paananen.

Retirement Bonfire at Meetinghouse Farm – 6:00 PM

Stroll across the street to Meetinghouse Farm and join us for a bonfire and some pizza to celebrate Chief Joe Maruca's retirement.



Congratulations Chief Joe Maruca

- 20 Years as Chief of the West Barnstable FD, 2005 to 2024
- 27 Years of Volunteer Fire & EMS Service, 1977 to 2005

FIRE DISTRICT

NOTICE TO FIRE DISTRICT VOTERS

FISCAL YEAR 2025

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

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

Fire District Meeting Starts at 7:00 PM

**West Barnstable Community Building
2377 Meetinghouse Way (Route 149)**

West Barnstable, MA 02668

FY 2025 Meeting Warrant Begins on Page 1

2023 ANNUAL REPORTS

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT

Elected and Appointed Officials

Elected Officials

Moderator

Michael Pierce

Term Expires 2026

Prudential Committee

Edward Jay, Chairman

Term Expires 2025

Dhiraj Malkani

Term Expires 2024

Edward C. Smith

Term Expires 2026

Board of Water Commissioners

Brian Paradise, Chairman

Term Expires 2026

Lisa Hendrickson

Term Expires 2024

Kristine Clark

Term Expires 2025

Appointed Officials

Joseph V. Maruca, Fire Chief David

David Paananen, Deputy Fire Chief

Raymond Pirrone, Treasurer

Charles Marshall, Accountant

Daniel R. Furbush, Clerk

FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT
of the
WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT

March 1, 2024

To: Daniel Furbush, 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 Community Building, 2377 Meetinghouse Way** (Route 149), West Barnstable, Massachusetts, on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024**, 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 **2023 Reports of the Officers**, including the minutes of the previous Annual District meeting, as printed in the **2023 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 **2025 Fiscal Year** beginning July 1, 2024, 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 if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Five Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$5,432.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2025** for streetlight service, said funds to be under the direction of the fire chief, or take any other action relative thereto. (**Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$5,432.00)**).

Article 4. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Eighty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars (\$80,492.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2025** for debt service, said funds to be expended under the direction of the treasurer, or to take any other action relative thereto. (**Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of Eighty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars (\$80,492.00)**).

Article 5. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Eighty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars (\$83,382.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2025** for District Salaries for the following officers: Moderator, District Treasurer, District Accountant, District Clerk, Prudential Committee, and Records Access Officer, 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 Eighty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Eight-Two Dollars (\$83,382.00)).**

Article 6. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Fifty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen (\$55,916.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2025** for the ordinary operating expenses of the District, 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 Fifty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen (\$55,916.00)).**

Article 7. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **One Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Eight-One Dollars (\$1,725,381.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2025** for the operation of the West Barnstable Fire Department, said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief, or to take any action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Three Hundred Eight-One Dollars (\$1,710,381.00) for a total appropriation of One Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Eight-One Dollars (\$1,725,381.00)).**

Article 8. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Five Hundred Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$511,268.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2025** to fund miscellaneous district obligations, said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$419,683.00), and transfer and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) from Certified Free Cash and transfer and appropriate Sixty-One Thousand Five Hundred Eight-Five Dollars (\$61,585.00) from the OPEB Trust Fund, for a total appropriation of Five Hundred Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight (\$511,268.00)).**

Article 9. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2025** to the Reserve Fund, 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 Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) and transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)).**

Article 10. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)** to the Stabilization Fund in

Fiscal Year 2025 or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the Ambulance Stabilization Fund).**

ARTICLE 11. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$17,200.00)** for Fiscal Year 2025 to fund an audit of the West Barnstable Fire District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$17,200.00)).**

ARTICLE 12. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** for Fiscal Year 2025 for Whelden Memorial Library services, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommend transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)).**

ARTICLE 13. To see if the District will vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00)** for Fiscal Year 2025 to the Other Post Employment Retirement (OPEB) Trust Fund, said funds to be expended under the direction of the treasurer, or take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00)).**

ARTICLE 14. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Thousand One Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$6121.00)** to be added to Article Six for Fiscal Year 2025, to raise and appropriate **Four Hundred Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$416,168.00)** to be added to Article Seven for Fiscal Year 2025, to raise and appropriate **One Hundred Seven Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$107,613.00)** to be added to Article Eight for Fiscal Year 2025, and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000)** to be added to Article Eight for Fiscal Year 2025, for a total appropriation of **Five Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Two Dollars (\$569,902.00)**, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00) to be added to Article Six for Fiscal Year 2025, to raise and appropriate Four Hundred Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$416,168.00) to be added to Article Seven for Fiscal Year 2025, to raise and appropriate One Hundred Seven Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$107,613.00) to be added to Article Eight for Fiscal Year 2025, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be added to Article Eight for Fiscal Year 2025, for a total appropriation of Five Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Two Dollars (\$569,902.00)).**

Note: This article will fund the hiring of four additional full-time firefighters and if approved this article will result in an increase of the average tax bill by about \$380.00.

Article 15. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$2,944.00)** to be added to Article Six for Fiscal Year 2025, to raise and appropriate **Two Hundred Thousand Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$200,069.00)** to be added to Article Seven for Fiscal Year 2025, to raise and appropriate **Fifty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Six Dollars (\$53,806.00)** to be added to Article Eight for Fiscal Year 2025, and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** to be added to Article Eight for Fiscal Year 2025, for a total appropriation of **Two Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$276,820.00)** or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Prudential Committee recommends to raise and appropriate Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$2,944.00) to be added to Article Six for Fiscal Year 2025, to raise and appropriate Two Hundred Thousand Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$200,069.00) to be added to Article Seven for Fiscal Year 2025, to raise and appropriate Fifty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Six Dollars (\$53,806.00) to be added to Article Eight for Fiscal Year 2025, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to Article Eight for Fiscal Year 2025, for a total appropriation of Two Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$276,820.00)).

Note: This article will fund the hiring of two additional full-time firefighters and if approved this article will result in the increase of the average tax bill by about \$185.00.

Article 16. To see if the District will vote to transfer and appropriate from General Stabilization the **sum of \$90,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2025 for the purchase of an administrative and response vehicle for the use of the Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief, said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from General Stabilization the sum of sum of \$90,000.00)).**

Article 17. To see if the District will vote to transfer and appropriate from the General Stabilization the **sum of \$76,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2025 for the design, engineering, permitting, and project management of a renovation of the fire station to create new sleeping and work spaces on the second floor, said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends transfer and appropriate from General Stabilization the sum of \$70,000)).**

Article 18. To see if the District will vote to amend the bylaws of the West Barnstable Fire District as follows:

In ARTICLE I, OFFICERS, strike out Section 3; and

In ARTICLE II, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 8, District Treasurer, Part A 1, strike out the word "above" and insert the word "below" in place thereof; and

In ARTICLE II, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 5, Fire Chief, Part C, strike out item 1 "Shall be a minimum of thirty (30) years of age"; and

In ARTICLE II, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 5, Fire Chief, Part C, add at the end of Item 5, "The term "Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)" as used in these bylaws includes advance life support licensure, such as paramedic, as such advance licensure includes emergency medical technician skills, and this requirement is not intended to limit the emergency medical services skill level."; and

In ARTICLE II, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 9, Temporary Clerk/Treasurer, by striking out the entire section and inserting a new Section A that reads "If the Clerk or Treasurer is prevented from performing their official duties, or if either office is vacant, the Prudential Committee may appoint a Temporary Clerk or Temporary Treasurer who shall serve until a new Clerk or Treasurer is chosen. And in the case of a Temporary Treasurer, the Temporary Treasurer shall give bond in the same manner as the Treasurer.;" and

In ARTICLE II, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 10: Vacancy and Dismissal of Appointed Officials, Part A1, add immediately following the words "Whenever a vacancy occurs" the words "among appointed officials"; and

And in ARTICLE II, OFFICERS, Section 10: Vacancy and Dismissal of Appointed Officials, Part C1 the words "Written Notice Of The Vote Of The" shall be change to "written notice of the vote of the"; and

In ARTICLE III, FINANCES, strike out Section 4; and

In ARTICLE V, RECALL, add in Section 3 the word "of" after the word "officer"; and

In ARTICLE V, RECALL, add in Section 4, a coma following the words "If recall is voted"; and

In ARTICLE IX, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRONIC FIRE ALARMS; FALSE ALARMS; PENALTY, Section 3, replace the number (4) with (4th), and replace the number (5) with (5th), and replace the number (6) with (6th); and

Add a new ARTICLE X titled "Gender Neutral Meaning" as follows:

"All references in these bylaws to "he", "she", "he/she" or other gender titles shall be read and interpreted to include all genders."

Or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends amending the bylaws of the West Barnstable Fire District as written).**

Note: These changes are to correct typographical errors in the original enactments and make clarifications. These are not substantive changes.

Article 19. To see if the district will vote to amend the bylaws by striking out in its entirety "Section 5: Fire Chief" Sections "A. Appointment", "B. Residency", and "C. Mandatory Qualifications" of ARTICLE II DUTIES OF OFFICERS, and inserting in place new sections, as follows:

Section 5: Fire Chief

A. Appointment

1. The Prudential Committee shall appoint the Fire Chief based on merit and ability in accordance with these bylaws and a written job description.
2. If the Fire Chief is appointed from outside the membership of the West Barnstable Fire Department, he or she shall serve a one-year probationary term during which time the Prudential Committee may terminate him or her with or without cause.
3. If the Fire Chief is subject to a one-year probationary term, at the conclusion of his or her probationary term, the Fire Chief may be appointed and reappointed for a term of up to three years.
4. After the conclusion of any probationary term, the Fire Chief may be terminated only for just cause, after a public hearing, and by a unanimous vote of the Prudential Committee.
5. The Prudential Committee shall annually conduct a written performance review of the Fire Chief.

B. Residency

1. The Fire Chief shall, within one (1) year of appointment and at the time of any reappointment, reside east of the Cape Cod Canal and within ten (10) miles of the West Barnstable Fire Department. The Fire Chief shall adhere to this requirement during his or her term in office.

C. Mandatory Qualifications

1. The Fire Chief shall have substantial experience in the preparation and administration of budgets, strategic planning, leadership, and emergency operations command.
2. The Fire Chief shall have not less than five (5) years of experience as a fire and EMS officer.
3. The Fire Chief shall be medically qualified as determined by a firefighter occupational medical exam conducted by a licensed physician selected by the Prudential Committee.
4. The Fire Chief shall be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and shall maintain such certification during his or her term in office.
5. The Prudential Committee may add additional qualifications as they deem appropriate based upon the needs and resources of the department and district, and they shall maintain a written job description for the Fire Chief that includes

qualifications, responsibilities, and duties.

And to further amend the bylaws in said ARTICLE II by striking out in its entirety "Section 6: Deputy Fire Chief" and inserting in place a new Section 6: Deputy Fire Chief, as follows:

Section 6: Deputy Fire Chief

A. Appointment

1. The Prudential Committee and the Fire Chief, acting together, shall, based on merit and ability in accordance with these bylaws and a written job description, appoint a Deputy Fire Chief who shall serve as the second in command of the fire department.
2. If the Deputy Fire Chief is appointed from outside the membership of the West Barnstable Fire Department, he or she shall serve a one-year probationary term during which time the Prudential Committee may terminate him or her with or without cause.
3. If the Deputy Fire Chief is subject to a one-year probationary term of employment, at the conclusion of his or her probationary term, the Deputy Fire Chief may be appointed and reappointed for a term of up to three years.
4. At the conclusion of any probationary term of employment, the Deputy Fire Chief may be terminated only for just cause upon the concurrence of the Fire Chief and the Prudential Committee, after a public hearing.
5. The Fire Chief and the Prudential Committee shall annually conduct a written performance review of the Deputy Fire Chief.

B. Residency

1. The Deputy Fire Chief shall, within one (1) year of appointment and at the time of any reappointment, reside east of the Cape Cod Canal and within ten (10) miles of the West Barnstable Fire Department. The Deputy Fire Chief shall adhere to this requirement during his or her term in office.

C. Mandatory Qualifications

1. The Deputy Fire Chief shall have substantial experience in planning, leadership, and emergency operations command.
2. The Deputy Fire Chief shall have not less than five (5) years of experience as a fire and EMS officer.
3. The Deputy Fire Chief shall be medically qualified as determined by a firefighter occupational medical exam conducted by a licensed physician selected by the Prudential Committee.
4. The Deputy Fire Chief shall be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and shall

maintain such certification during his or her term in office.

5. The Fire Chief and the Prudential Committee may add additional qualifications as they deem appropriate based upon the needs and resources of the department and district, and they shall maintain a written job description for the deputy fire chief that includes qualifications, responsibilities, and duties.

D. Minimum Duties of the Deputy Fire Chief

1. The Deputy Fire Chief shall perform the duties and responsibilities delegated to him or her by the Fire Chief and those outlined in his or her job description.
2. In the absence of the Fire Chief, the Deputy Fire Chief shall perform the duties of the Fire Chief.
3. The Fire Chief shall be the supervisor of the Deputy Fire Chief assigning day to day duties and roles, work hours, and operational procedures.

Or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends amending the bylaws of the West Barnstable Fire District as written).**

Article 20: To see if the District will raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** to be added to Article 6 for Water Commissioners, or to take any other action relative thereto. **(Prudential Committee recommends raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)).**

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 1st day of March, 2024.

Prudential Committee
West Barnstable Fire District
Edward Jay, Chair
Edward C. Smith
Dhiraj Malkani

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:
Daniel R. Furbush, District Clerk
West Barnstable Fire District

REPORT OF THE WEST BARNSTABLE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE FISCAL YEAR 2023

The WBFD Prudential Committee has been working the past year on a number of critical issues on behalf of the District. These include budgeting, water issues, hiring of department personnel, union contract matters, and updating policies. However, a major matter we are concerned with is the pending retirement of Chief Joe Maruca in April 2024 and the promotion of Deputy Chief David Paananen to Chief. We all feel that David is ready for the job, as he has been involved with all aspects of the position alongside Chief Maruca. Steps have also been taken to deal with the search for Dave's replacement as Deputy Chief.

In the next year, in addition to hiring a new Deputy Chief, we also expect to hire additional firefighter/EMTs and the staffing scheduling associated with it. And we also must consider the persistence of the loss of staff to other Departments. An increasing number of departments are expanding their full-time staff and they look to our West Barnstable fire staff to fill their needs. A lot has to do with the superior training our staff get but pay and benefits are also issues we will be looking at in the coming year.

The Prudential Committee is also watching the issues about water in our village. While this is also the primary issue for the Water Commissioners, the Prudential Committee also wants to make sure that our future water needs are met. The Water Commissioners have been working on this issue throughout 2023 and they keep the Prudential Committee informed at monthly meetings. As we all know, water is going to be a major issue for the district in the coming years.

On this topic, we would like to welcome the new member of the Water Commission, Brian Paradise, and look forward to collaborating with him.

We would like to recognize a few of the unsung heroes of our staff and tell you about a few changes.

First, we would like to recognize our Treasurer, Raymond Pirrone, for the work he does. He keeps us informed on all budget issues each month. We always know what's happening with the money. He also oversees our annual audit process, and we get almost perfect audits each year because of how well we manage money.

Secondly, we would like to recognize our Fire District Clerk, Dan Furbush. Dan is doing an outstanding job. He has the committee well prepared for our monthly meetings and has an excellent grasp of meeting protocol.

Thirdly, we would like to thank Dhiraj Malkani for his service on the Prudential Committee. Dhiraj has opted not to renew his membership on the committee due to his work commitments. We wish Dhiraj the best of luck.

And lastly, we would like to welcome Michael Pierce as the new Fire District Moderator, replacing Kate Mitchell, who retired last year.

All our staff work extremely hard to be sure that the needs of the residents are met. It is a testament to their ability and commitment that we have a successful fire district with a mostly part-time and volunteer staff. We know our staff provides excellent EMS to the residents as the patient surveys show high levels of satisfaction.

We would also like to urge that all homes have good working FIRE ALARMS. These devices do save lives and their batteries should be checked at least twice a year. If you need help in replacing your alarms call the West Barnstable Fire Department, they will be happy to help you.

The Prudential Committee usually meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 PM at the Fire Station. You are always welcome to attend our meetings.

I urge you to please read this report book as it is full of valuable information about your Fire District and its operations.

West Barnstable Fire District Prudential Committee:

Edward Jay, Chair

Edward Smith

Dhiraj Malkani



West Barnstable Board of Water Commissioners

FY 2023 Annual Report

The West Barnstable Board of Water Commissioners generally meets on the first Monday of every other month at 6:30 P.M. in the West Barnstable Community Building at 2377 Meetinghouse Way. Our meetings are posted on the Town's website under "Official Agendas," which can be found under "Quick Links" on the Town's homepage or on the Town Clerk's webpage.

Bridge Creek Conservation Area - a future municipal water supply source for Hyannis?

FY 2023 was a busy year for us as we tried to remain up-to-date with this issue. Many West Barnstable residents attended our meetings to voice their opinions about the Town's potential use of groundwater from the West Barnstable Fire District as a municipal water supply source for ratepayers in Hyannis. Meeting attendees heard updates from Town DPW staff regarding the initial pump test results, next steps in their water supply search and also had the opportunity to ask them questions. Some WB residents expressed concern about drawdown impacts from a high-volume municipal well on their private drinking water wells. The Bridge Creek Conservation Area (BCCA) was one of the two most productive test well sites in the Town, and as such, will undergo additional well installations for longer duration pump tests soon. If selected as the Town's new water supply site, an access road and a building to house a pump house and treatment facility (to treat PFAS contamination of the groundwater) will be built on this conservation land. To learn more, the "*Source Exploration Reports*" are available on the Town's website under "Water Supply Division" then select "Reports and Regulations." We are in the process of utilizing our first appropriation of Water District funds (\$10,000) for professional services to proactively obtain answers to how we can protect the aquifer of the BCCA.

Please attend the April 24th Annual Meeting

For the upcoming Annual Meeting of the West Barnstable Fire District, we have requested \$15,000 in the event that additional professional services are needed to address the impacts from a municipal water supply well installed within the BCCA. This appropriation requires your vote to be accepted. We are elected volunteers and it is our job to act in the interest of our District residents and businesses to hire professional services to ensure the protection of the District's groundwater resources for our future water supply needs in West Barnstable. **Please vote to support our funding request on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., at the WB Community Building.**

Protect your and your neighbor's wells

Since the majority of West Barnstable residents rely on private drinking water wells, it is imperative to protect the water quality of our valuable groundwater resource by not discarding (or flushing) oils, fuels, chemicals, paints, insecticides or prescription medicine anywhere except at approved collection sites. We all share the same aquifer and contamination may adversely affect you and/or your neighbor's well water. In 2024, Hazardous Waste collection days occur at the Town's Transfer Station on **April 6, June 22, August 24 and September 21 from 9:00 A.M. to noon**. To safely dispose of unwanted medications, deposit them at the anonymous, free drop-off kiosk in your nearest police department lobby. For more information, see "Unwanted Medications" at www.capecodextension.org.

The Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment recommends annual testing of your drinking water well for (at minimum) coliform bacteria, pH, specific conductance, sodium and nitrates and more comprehensive testing every three years. Call the Barnstable County Water Quality Laboratory at 508-375-6605 for more information.

Brian Paradise, Chair
Kris Clark, Clerk
Lisa Hendrickson



FY 2023 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT TREASURER

The Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) books are closed and all the requisite financial statements and reports for that period have been filed with and accepted by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR). Our firm of independent accountants, Roselli Clark and Associates, have completed the audit of FY 23 and their report is available for review online at the District web site: <http://westbarnstablefiredistrict.com>

The West Barnstable Fire District FY 23 Budget stewardship was very good. District management underspent Budgeted appropriations by \$85,428. In addition, local receipts – primarily ambulance and interest, generated \$250,612 more revenue than was estimated in the FY23 Budget. Partially offsetting this added revenue was a shortfall in property tax collections of \$15,218. The resultant net revenue and underspending resulted in DOR Certified Free Cash of \$310,405 for FY23. This Free Cash plus \$500,582 of unencumbered funds from the Stabilization Fund and \$32,245 from the Special Revenue Funds are available for use for funding Warrants at the District Meeting.

The tax rate is the product of budgeted appropriations divided by property values. For 2024 the tax rate was set at \$1.93 per thousand dollars of property value, a decline of 5.3% from 2023. In 2024 the net appropriations increased by \$117,617 (6.2%), but District property values increased 12.6%. The larger increase in valuation more than offset the FY 2024 increased appropriations thus lowering the rate. However, when the lower rate is applied to the higher residential value, the average West Barnstable homeowner will experience a 6.6% increase in their property tax bill.

The District wants to thank R. Lane Partridge, the Director of Assessing for the Town of Barnstable, for his assistance in setting the 2024 tax rates. We also want to thank Sean O'Brien, Town Treasurer and Collector, and the Assistant Collector, Gislaine Morse, for the collection of District taxes. Finally, we want to recognize and thank the District Accountant, Charles Marshall, for his excellent work for the District.

The following reports are an integral part of this narrative. The ones covering FY2023 are the year-end Balance Sheet, the Revenue for the Fiscal Year 2023 and the details of FY 23 Budget and corresponding expenditures. For Fiscal Year 2024 the proposed Budget is included with select historical data. These reports are prepared using the modified cash basis as mandated by DOR for the District reporting. The audit report, however, is based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for Municipalities. The notable differences between these two methods are the recognition of revenue when billed versus when collected, the recognition of pension and post-retirement liabilities, and the inclusion of fixed assets and related depreciation in the audit report but not the District reports. For reference, the District's unfunded pension Liability is \$1,747,352 and its post-retirement medical insurance net liability of investments is \$692,731.

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 Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups
as of June 30, 2023

	General	Stabilization	Special Revenue	Trust	Debt	Totals (Memorandum Only)
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,161,178	\$ 736,150	\$ 107,245	\$ 352,338		\$ 2,356,911
Receivables:						\$ -
Personal property taxes	2,805					2,805
Real estate taxes	79,890					79,890
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(59,883)					(59,883)
Tax liens	162,841					162,841
Departmental	609,338					609,338
Due from other governments	30,302					30,302
Due to/From other funds	3,905			(3,905)		
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds					150,000	150,000
Total Assets	\$ 1,990,376	\$ 736,150	\$ 107,245	\$ 348,433	\$ 150,000	\$ 3,332,204
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY						
Liabilities:						
Accounts payable	\$ 46,924	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,924
Accrued payroll and withholdings	9,989					9,989
Other liabilities	686					686
Deferred revenue:						
Real and personal property taxes	22,812					22,812
Tax liens	162,841					162,841
Departmental & other governments	639,640					639,640
Notes payable					150,000	150,000
Total Liabilities	882,892	-	-	-	150,000	1,032,892
Fund Equity:						
Reserved for encumbrances	19,870					19,870
Reserved for expenditures	360,488	150,567				511,055
Reserved for continuing appropriations	356,837	85,000	75,000	348,433		865,271
Appropriation deficits						-
Undesignated fund balance	370,289	500,583	32,245			903,117
Total Fund Equity	1,107,484	736,150	107,245	348,433	-	2,299,313
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 1,990,376	\$ 736,150	\$ 107,245	\$ 348,433	\$ 150,000	\$ 3,332,204

West Barnstable Fire District
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Fund	Stabilization Funds	Special Revenue Funds	Trust Fund	Debt	Total (Memorandum Only)
<u>REVENUES:</u>						
Property Taxes:						
Personal Property	20,926					20,926
Real Estate	1,839,970					1,839,970
Tax Liens	9,628					9,628
Local Receipts:						0
Licenses, Permits, Fines & Fees	12,901					12,901
Investment Income	12,577	18,058	2,358	35,053		68,046
Other	7,470	2,579				10,049
User Charges	464,804					464,804
Contributions and Donations	0		200	0		200
TOTAL REVENUES	2,368,277	20,637	2,558	35,053	0	2,426,525
<u>EXPENDITURES: (excluding encumbrances)</u>						
General Government	223,185			0		223,185
Public Safety	1,597,848			0		1,597,848
Public Works	4,147			0		4,147
Culture and Recreation	15,000			0		15,000
Debt Service	718				30,000	30,718
Employee Benefits and Insurance	305,135			0		305,135
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,146,033	0	0	0	30,000	2,176,033
REVENUES OVER / (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	222,244	20,637	2,558	35,053	(30,000)	250,492
<u>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES / (USES):</u>						
Operating Transfers In	0	160,000		1,500		161,500
Operating Transfers Out	161,500					161,500
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES / (USES)	(161,500)	160,000	0	1,500	0	0
REVENUE AND OTHER SOURCES OVER / (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	60,744	180,637	2,558	36,553	(30,000)	250,492
Fund Balances - July 1, 2022	1,046,740	555,513	104,687	311,880	180,000	2,198,820
Fund Balances - June 30, 2023	1,107,484	736,150	107,245	348,433	150,000	2,449,312

West Barnstable Fire District
Expenditure Report - FY 2023

Article FY 2023	Group / Line Item	Beginning Encumbrance	BUDGET FY2023	Reserve Fund Transfers	Budget Adjustments	Final FY2023	Expended FY2023	Expense Transfer	Transfers FY 2023	Encumb FY2023	Cont. Approp	Total FY2023	FY2023 Turnback
3	Street Lights												
	Street Lighting	-	3,383	0	0	3,383	2,116				0	2,116	1,267
	Street Light Repair & Maintenance	-	513	0	0	513	0				0	0	513
	Street Light Replacement	-	1,230	0	0	1,230	0			0	0	0	1,230
	Prior Year Encumbrance	-					0					0	0
	Total Street Lights		5,126	0	0	5,126	2,116			0	0	2,116	3,010
4	Debt Services												
	Short Term Interest	-	718	0	0	718	718				0	718	0
	Long Term Interest	-	30,000	0	0	30,000	30,000				0	30,000	0
	Long Term Debt	-	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	Total Debt Services	-	30,718	0	0	30,718	30,718	0		0	0	30,718	0
5	District Salaries												
	Moderator	-	50	0	0	50	50				0	50	0
	Prudential Committee Salary	-	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000				0	1,000	0
	District Accountant	-	23,539	0	0	23,539	23,645				0	23,645	(106)
	District Treasurer	-	23,640	2,000	0	25,640	25,202				0	25,202	438
	Total District Salaries	-	69,369	2,000	0	71,369	70,832	0		0	0	70,832	537
6	District Expenses												
	Prudential Committee Operation	-	12,500	0	0	12,500	10,545				0	10,545	1,955
	Assessing / Tax Collection	-	1,100	0	0	1,100	6,300				0	6,300	(5,200)
	Professional Services	-	4,000	0	0	4,000	3,626				0	3,626	374
	Payroll Services	-	3,100	0	0	3,100	3,037				0	3,037	63
6	Bank Service Charges	-	2,050	0	0	2,050	1,409				0	1,409	641
	Legal	-	7,000	0	0	7,000	615				0	615	6,385
	Water Commission Operation	-	1,500	0	0	1,500	0				0	0	1,500
	Life Insurance	-	200	0	0	200	667				0	667	(467)
	FICA / Medicare	-	21,398	0	0	21,398	19,343				0	19,342	2,056
	Total District Expenses	-	52,848	0	0	52,848	45,541	0		0	0	45,541	7,307
6	Fire Department												
	Fire Department Payroll												
	Fire Chief	-	144,461	0	0	144,461	147,139				0	147,139	(2,678)
	Deputy Fire Chief	-	135,531	0	0	135,531	138,043				0	138,043	(2,512)
	Fire Dept Payroll, Career	-	448,079	0	0	448,079	454,808				0	454,808	(6,729)
6	Fire Dept Payroll, Adm. Asst.	-	27,295	0	0	27,295	22,606				0	22,606	4,689
	Fire Dept Payroll, Call	-	114,767	0	0	114,767	111,414				0	111,414	3,353
	Fire Dept Payroll, PT Firefighters	-	120,000	0	0	120,000	116,101				0	116,101	3,899
	Fire Dept Payroll, Career OT	-	274,794	0	0	274,794	244,155				0	244,155	30,639
	Fire Dept Payroll, OT Recruit Training	-	20,000	0	0	20,000	0				0	0	20,000
	Total Fire Department Payroll	-	1,284,927	0	0	1,284,927	1,234,266	0		0	0	1,234,266	50,661
6	Fire Department Non-Payroll												
	Legal Fees	-	2,562	0	0	2,562	473					473	2,089
	Consulting services	-	1,025	0	0	1,025	1,120				0	1,120	(95)
	Medical Examinations	-	10,250	0	0	10,250	10,383				0	10,383	(133)
	Data Management	-	10,000	0	0	10,000	25,909				0	25,909	(15,909)
6	Office Expenses	-	6,150	0	0	6,150	5,699				0	5,699	451
	Software Licenses	-	4,305	0	0	4,305	0				0	0	4,305
	Fire Prevention	-	103	0	0	103	206				0	206	(103)
	Total Fire Department Non-Payroll	-	25,295	0	0	25,295	26,108	0		0	0	26,108	(813)
	Total Fire Department	-	1,310,222	0	0	1,310,222	1,260,374	0		0	0	1,260,374	49,347

West Barnstable Fire District
Expenditure Report - FY 2023

Article FY 2023	Group / Line Item	Beginning Encumbrance	BUDGET FY2023	Reserve		Final FY2023	Expended FY2023	Expense Transfer	Transfers FY 2023	Encumb FY2023	Cont. Approp	Total FY2023	FY2023 Turnback
				Fund	Transfers								
	Unclassified Expenses		5,125	0	0	5,125	5,033				0	5,033	92
	Electricity	-	16,250	0	0	16,250	11,460				0	11,460	4,790
	Cable	-	205	0	0	205	378				0	378	(173)
	Heating Fuel	-	8,750	0	0	8,750	6,899				0	6,899	1,851
	Emergency Power	-	256	0	0	256	336				0	336	(80)
	Waste Water	-	3,075	0	0	3,075	2,734				0	2,734	341
	Station 3	-	308	0	0	308	409				0	409	(101)
	Building Maintenance	-	21,000	0	0	21,000	12,038				0	12,038	8,962
	Rubbish Removal	-	2,460	0	0	2,460	3,952				0	3,952	(1,492)
	Telephone	-	2,768	0	0	2,768	3,828				0	3,828	(1,060)
	Building Cleaning Supplies	-	1,025	0	0	1,025	168				0	168	857
	Other Facilities Expenses	-	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	Fuels/Lubricants	-	12,600	0	0	12,600	16,197				0	16,197	(3,597)
	Apparatus Maintenance	-	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	Apparatus Maintenance - A293 new	-	2,200	0	0	2,200	2,751				0	2,751	(551)
	Apparatus Maintenance - A294 new	-	2,750	0	0	2,750	1,698				0	1,698	1,052
	Apparatus Maintenance - B295	-	0	0	0	0	460				0	460	(460)
	Apparatus Maintenance - ET296	-	2,750	0	0	2,750	8,808				0	8,808	(6,058)
	Apparatus Maintenance - L297	-	10,000	0	0	10,000	13,093				0	13,093	(3,093)
	Apparatus Maintenance - C280	-	1,100	0	0	1,100	283				0	283	817
	Apparatus Maintenance - C291	-	0	0	0	0	3,974				0	3,974	(3,974)
	Apparatus Maintenance - C292	-	0	0	0	0	1,529					1,529	
	Apparatus Maintenance - F290	-	1,100	0	0	1,100	1,581				0	1,581	
	Apparatus Maintenance - T286	-	6,600	0	0	6,600	4,231				0	4,231	2,369
	Apparatus Maintenance - SH287	-	1,100	0	0	1,100	3,622				0	3,622	(2,522)
	Apparatus Maintenance - MCI Trailer	-	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	Apparatus Maintenance - P288	-	1,100	0	0	1,100	340				0	340	760
	Apparatus Maintenance - HUMVEE	-	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	Apparatus Maintenance - Light Trailer	-	275	0	0	275	8				0	8	267
	Apparatus Maintenance - Air Trailer	-	1,650	0	0	1,650	2,258				0	2,258	(608)
	Apparatus Maintenance - General	-	5,060	0	0	5,060	1,624				0	1,624	3,436
	Portable Equipment Maintenance	-	4,400	0	0	4,400	472				0	472	3,928
	Air Apparatus maintenance	-	6,600	0	0	6,600	598				0	598	6,002
	Batteries:	-	2,200	0	0	2,200	312				0	312	1,888
	Equipment Service Contracts	-	220	0	0	220	3,428				0	3,428	(3,208)
	EMS Equipment Maintenance	-	4,950	0	0	4,950	11,215				0	11,215	(6,265)
	Radio Maintenance	-	2,200	0	0	2,200	0				0	0	2,200
	Office Equipment Maintenance	-	1,650	0	0	1,650	1,711				0	1,711	(61)
	Hazardous Waste Disposal	-	550	0	0	550	2,907				0	2,907	(2,357)
	Office Equipment	-	789	0	0	789	1,549				0	1,549	(760)
	Computer Equipment	-	1,538	0	0	1,538	2,300			1,598	0	3,898	(2,360)
	Firefighting Equipment	-	2,050	0	0	2,050	3			1,036	0	3,206	(1,206)
	Fire Hose	-	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,170				0	4,144	6,501
	EMS Equipment	-	10,645	0	0	10,645	4,144				0	0	1,025
	Communications Equipment	-	1,025	0	0	1,025	0			0	0	0	256
	Station Equipment	-	256	0	0	256	0			0	0	99	426
	Uniforms - Chief	-	525	0	0	525	99			0	0	0	525
	Uniforms - Deputy	-	525	0	0	525	0			0	0	835	0
	Uniforms - TJ	-	835	0	0	835	835			0	0	864	(29)
	Uniforms - WM	-	835	0	0	835	864			0	0	860	(25)
	Uniforms - KS	-	835	0	0	835	860			0	0	835	0
	Uniforms - CC	-	835	0	0	835	835			0	0	370	465
	Uniforms - LW	-	835	0	0	835	370				0	452	1,548
	Uniforms - Call	-	2,000	0	0	2,000	452				0	1,320	
	Uniforms - Parttime	-	1,250	0	0	1,250	1,320				0	50,247	(47,684)
	Protective Clothing	-	2,563	0	0	2,563	33,011			17,236	0		
													17

West Barnstable Fire District
Expenditure Report - FY 2023

Article FY 2023	Group / Line Item	Beginning Encumbrance	BUDGET FY2023	Reserve Fund Transfers	Budget Adjustments	Final FY2023	Expended FY2023	Expense Transfer	Transfers FY 2023	Encumb FY2023	Cont. Approp	Total FY2023	FY2023 Turnback
	Agents & Chemicals (Foam)	-	513	0	0	513	0	0	0	0	0	0	513
	Immunizations	-	2,563	0	0	2,563	851	0	0	0	0	851	1,712
	Infection Control	-	205	0	0	205	0	0	0	0	0	0	205
	EMS Supplies	-	13,650	0	0	13,650	15,063	0	0	0	0	15,063	(1,413)
	EMS Medications	-	10,500	0	0	10,500	2,701	0	0	0	0	2,701	7,799
	Ambulance License Fees	-	1,127	0	0	1,127	800	0	0	0	0	800	327
	Firefighter Training	-	4,100	0	0	4,100	3,124	0	0	0	0	3,124	976
	EMS Training	-	4,100	0	0	4,100	4,710	0	0	0	0	4,710	(610)
	Officer Development	-	6,150	0	0	6,150	1,504	0	0	0	0	1,504	4,646
	Driver Training	-	513	0	0	513	0	0	0	0	0	0	513
	Travel & Tuition	-	3,075	0	0	3,075	1,300	0	0	0	0	1,300	1,775
	Travel & Materials Recruit Training	-	15,375	0	0	15,375	7,162	0	0	0	0	7,162	8,213
	Dues & Subscriptions	-	2,563	0	0	2,563	3,358	0	0	0	0	3,358	(795)
	Physical Training	-	1,230	0	0	1,230	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,230
	Certifications / Testing	-	4,100	0	0	4,100	161	0	0	0	0	161	3,939
	Public Education / CPR	-	1,538	0	0	1,538	293	0	0	0	0	293	1,245
	Grant Matching Funds	-	0	0	0	0	9,602	0	0	0	0	9,602	(9,602)
	Accreditation	-	103	0	0	103	0	0	0	0	0	0	103
	Contingency	-	2,050	0	0	2,050	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,050
	Hydrant Service	-	2,563	0	0	2,563	2,890	0	0	0	0	2,890	(327)
	Ambulance Collection	-	9,738	0	0	9,738	15,332	0	0	0	0	15,332	(5,594)
	Dispatch	-	29,530	0	0	29,530	24,538	0	0	0	0	24,538	4,992
	Cape & Islands EMS System	-	2,973	0	0	2,973	2,133	0	0	0	0	2,133	840
	Fire Alarm System	-	3,075	0	0	3,075	2,461	0	0	0	0	2,461	614
	CERT / Explorers / Fire Corps	-	359	0	0	359	(4)	0	0	0	0	(4)	363
			(26)	0	0	(26)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fire Dept Non-Payroll Subtotal	-	317,680	0	0	317,680	320,916	0	0	19,870	0	340,786	(21,000)
7	Total Fire Department	-	1,602,607	0	0	1,602,607	1,555,182	0	0	19,870	0	1,575,052	29,661
	Miscellaneous												
	County Retirement	-	164,059	0	0	164,059	164,059	0	0	0	0	164,059	0
	Health Insurance	-	144,400	0	0	144,400	140,409	0	0	0	0	140,409	3,991
	Insurance	-	92,352	0	0	92,352	91,639	0	0	0	0	91,639	713
	Transfer To OPEB Trust	-	42,500	4,400	0	46,900	0	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	0
8	Total Misc.	-	443,311	4,400	0	447,711	396,107	0	1,500	0	0	397,607	4,704
9	Reserve Fund	-	42,500	(5,200)	0	37,300	0	0	0	0	0	0	37,300
10	Total Other Transfers	-	160,000	0	0	160,000	0	57,500	160,000	0	0	160,000	0
11	Audit	-	17,200	0	0	17,200	15,840	0	0	0	1,360	15,840	0
12	Library Funding	-	15,000	0	0	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0	15,000	0
	State Grants												
	Total FY 2023 Appropriation:	-	2,438,679	1,200	0	2,439,879	2,134,566	57,500	161,500	19,870	1,360	2,315,936	82,519
							3,230					3,230	
Prior Year Articles													
2014-14	Rehab B-295		2,000	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	1,399
2016-14	Water Treatment System		3,430	0	0	3,430	2,031	0	0	0	0	2,031	1,399
2016-16	Radios & Repeater		72,722	0	0	72,722	12,457	0	0	0	60,265	12,457	

West Barnstable Fire District
Expenditure Report - FY 2023

Article FY 2023	Group / Line Item	Beginning Encumbrance	BUDGET FY2023	Reserve Fund Transfers	Budget Adjustments	Final FY2023	Expended FY2023	Expense Transfer	Transfers FY 2023	Encumb FY2023	Cont. Approp	Total FY2023	FY2023 Turnback
2017-15	Vehicle Laptops		3,313			3,313	1,099				2,214	1,099	0
2018-12	Pers Protective Eq		3,882			3,882	0				3,882	0	
2019-12	Pers Protective Eq		20,000			20,000	0				20,000	0	
2020-12	Pers Protective Eq		7,855			7,855	0				7,855	0	
2019-15	Truck Tires		5,000			5,000	0				5,000	0	
2021-13	Tanker 286 Repairs		1,510			1,510	0				0	0	1,510
2023-15	Replace Engine 296		50,000			50,000	0				50,000	0	
2022-13	Replace Engine 296		650,000			650,000	0				650,000	0	0
2022-14	Fire station Capital Improvements		8,269			8,269	1,510				6,759	1,510	
2023-15	Fire station Capital Improvements		12,000			12,000	4,500				7,500	4,500	
Total Prior Year Articles		-	839,981	0	0	839,981	21,597	0	0	0	815,477	21,597	2,909
Prior Year Encumbrances - Fire Dept			0			0	0					0	0
FY 2023 GF Totals		-	3,278,660	0	0	3,279,860	2,156,163	57,500	161,500	19,870	816,837	2,337,533	85,428
												less Debt (300,000)	
												Less Stabilization Fund - Allocated (85,000)	
												Less Special Revenue (Bailey) Fund - Allocated (75,000)	
												Fund Balance - Continuing Appropriations 356,837	

West Barnstable Fire District
Statement of Net Funded and Fixed Debt
Year ended June 30, 2023

	BONDED INDEBTEDNESS	BONDS OUTSTANDING
<u>LONG TERM DEBT</u>		
BALANCE JULY 1, 2022		\$ -
less: PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS		\$
BALANCE JUNE 30, 2023		\$ -
<u>SHORT TERM DEBT</u>		
BALANCE JULY 1, 2022		\$ 180,000.00
less: PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS		\$ 30,000.00
BALANCE JUNE 30, 2023		\$ 150,000.00
<u>INTEREST PAID ON DEBT IN FISCAL 2023</u>		\$ 718.00

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT
FISCAL YEAR 2025

Article Group	Line Item	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 BUDGET	FY 2025 PROPOSED	% Change
3	Street Lights						
	Street Lighting	1,763	1,803	3,383	3,481	3,585	3.0%
	Street Light Repair & Maintenance	306	351	513	527	1,304	147.4%
	Street Light Replacement	-	-	1,230	1,266	543	-57.1%
	Total Street Lights	2,069	2,154	5,125	5,274	5,432	3.0%
4	Debt Services						
	Interest Expense	5,236	2,415	718	4,487	20,492	356.7%
	Long Term Debt	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	100.0%
	Total Debt Services	35,236	32,415	30,718	34,487	80,492	133.4%
5	District Salaries						
	Moderator	100	50	50	50	50	0.0%
	Prudential Committee Salary	1,500	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
	District Accountant	24,307	22,965	23,539	24,481	25,575	4.5%
	District Treasurer	24,815	21,112	21,640	22,505	27,259	21.1%
	Records Access Officer	6,273	6,556	16,640	17,306	17,998	4.0%
	District Clerk	6,000	6,000	6,000	8,000	10,000	25.0%
	Total District Salaries	62,995	57,683	69,369	73,842	82,382	11.6%
6	District Expenses						
	Assessing / Tax Collection	3,626	3,636	4,000	4,116	4,239	3.0%
	Bank Service Charges	1,255	1,514	2,050	2,109	3,500	66.0%
	Professional Services	-	1,100	1,100	1,132	1,166	3.0%
	FICA / Medicare	17,274	19,281	21,398	18,028	21,208	17.6%
	Life Insurance	165	114	200	194	216	11.3%
	Legal	10,812	8,535	7,000	7,203	7,419	3.0%
	Prudential Committee Operation	12,504	7,651	12,500	12,863	13,249	3.0%
	Payroll Services	2,794	3,533	3,100	3,232	3,329	3.0%
	Water Commission Operation			1,500	1,544	1,590	3.0%
	Total District Expenses	48,429	45,364	52,848	50,421	55,916	10.9%

Article Group	Line Item	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 BUDGET	FY 2025 PROPOSED	% Change
7	Fire Department						
	Fire Department Payroll						
	Fire Chief	138,068	141,480	144,461	152,439	163,000	6.9%
	Deputy Fire Chief	129,533	132,734	135,531	143,015	153,000	7.0%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Career	390,158	413,818	448,079	448,182	473,880	5.7%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Adm. Asst.	21,263	21,820	27,295	28,387	29,522	4.0%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Call/Volunteer Wages	118,141	97,373	114,767	133,250	108,964	-18.2%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Part Time Firefighters	110,861	142,647	120,000	120,000	135,290	12.7%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Career Over Time	184,384	216,565	274,794	265,773	280,584	5.6%
	Fire Dept. Payroll, Training			20,000	20,000		
	Fire Dept - Housing Stipends				15,240	36,000	
	PT Fire (24 Article 14) \$15,240			-	30,000	15,000	-50.0%
	Fire Dept. Compensated Absences						2.9%
	Fire Dept. Payroll Subtotal	1,092,408	1,166,436	1,284,927	1,356,286	1,395,240	
	Fire Department Operations						
	FD Operation - Admin	32,261	40,137	36,958	45,489	58,253	28.1%
	FD Operation - Facilities Maintenance	41,040	48,426	56,096	61,306	64,118	4.6%
	FD Operation - Equipment Maintenance	77,947	79,917	71,055	69,118	68,268	-1.2%
	FD Operation - New Equipment	32,862	14,882	21,358	21,450	15,595	-27.3%
	FD Operation - Uniforms	4,603	8,859	8,475	8,475	9,604	13.3%
	FD Operation - Ambulance	21,486	23,994	28,045	27,722	29,457	6.3%
	FD Operation - Personnel Training	15,385	34,117	35,875	45,671	19,208	-57.9%
	FD Operation - Other Expenses	47,809	66,164	59,819	58,134	65,638	12.9%
	Fire Dept. Non-Payroll Subtotal	273,393	316,496	317,680	337,365	330,141	-2.1%
	Total Fire Department	1,365,801	1,482,932	1,602,607	1,693,651	1,725,381	1.9%
8	Miscellaneous						
	County Retirement	132,976	154,413	164,059	173,847	178,800	2.8%
	Employee Health Insurance - Active Employees	97,091	130,582	101,495	122,990	160,881	30.8%
	Retiree Health Insurance	40,622		42,905	47,692	61,585	29.1%
	General Insurance	84,783	89,678	92,353	95,031	110,000	15.8%
	Total Miscellaneous	355,472	374,673	400,812	439,560	511,266	16.3%

Article	Group	Line Item	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 BUDGET	FY 2025 PROPOSED	% Change
9	Reserve Fund			-	43,300	30,000	40,000	33.3%
10	Transfer to Other Funds							
		Stabilization Fund - General Stabilization	25,000	55,000	130,000	95,000	50,000	-47.4%
		Stabilization Fund - Ambulance	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000		
		Stabilization Fund - Critical Illness	2,500	2,500				
		Stabilization Fund - General	57,500	87,500	160,000	135,000	50,000	-63.0%
11	Audit		14,200	13,200	17,200	17,200	17,200	0.0%
12	Library Funding		15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0.0%
13	Transfer to OPEB Trust		80,000		40,500	80,000	85,000	6.3%
14	Addition of four full time Fire Fighter/EMS staff (\$569,902)				-			
15	Addition of two full time Fire Fighter/EMS staff (\$276,820)							
		Operating Expenditures	2,036,702	2,110,921	2,437,478	2,574,435	2,668,069	3.6%
		Capital Outlays						
16	Deputy Chief Vehicle						90,000	
17	New Sleeping Quarters						76,000	
20	Water Commissioners						15,000	
		Prior Year Appropriation Spending FY20-22 Appropriated FY23						
		Addition of women's bunk room				18,000		
		Water Commission various services				10,000		
		Consulting Serices for hiring Deputy Chief				15,000		
		Personal Protective Equipment				23,000		
		Vehicle Laptops		2,360				
		Radios & Repeaters	2,199					
		Personal Protective Equipment		12,310				

Article Group	Line Item	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 BUDGET	FY 2025 PROPOSED	% Change
	Tires		3,718	5,000			
	Corrosion Repair Tanker 286	13,490					
	Capital Improvements at Fire Station		11,731	12,000			
	Rehab 295	19,833					
	Total Capital Outlays	35,522	30,119	17,000	66,000	181,000	174.2%
	Total FY Expended/Budgeted Appropriations	2,072,224	2,141,040	2,454,478	2,640,435	2,849,069	7.9%

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT
TAXATION COMPARISON
FY 2021 TO FY 2025

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Proposed
Total Appropriations	\$2,072,224	\$2,141,040	\$2,454,478	\$2,640,435	\$2,849,069
Overlay/Deficits	10,000	9,464	5,968	30,681	10,000
Total Amount to Be Raised	2,082,224	2,150,504	2,460,446	2,671,116	2,859,069
Ambulance Fees	425,652	484,603	253,981	256,800	264,444
Free Cash	167,500	262,500	262,500	360,488	269,488
Overlay Surplus		90,000			
OPEB Trust Fund	40,622	38,569	42,905	47,692	61,585
Stabilization		160,000			
Local Revenue and Other Funding Sources	633,774	1,035,672	559,386	664,980	595,517
Tax Levy	1,785,851	1,833,491	1,901,060	2,006,136	2,263,552
increase	1.8%	2.7%	3.7%	5.5%	12.8%
Tax Levy with the addition of four Fire Fighters (\$569,902)					2,833,454.00
increase					41.2%
Tax Levy with the addition of two Fire Fighters (\$276,820)					2,540,372.00
increase					26.6%
Property Values	601,054,600	742,304,310	931,892,360	1,045,781,400	1,045,781,400
Average Residential Property Value	518,151	568,107	713,054	803,242	803,242
increase	5.7%	9.7%	26.2%	12.9%	0.0%
Tax Rate	\$2.62	\$2.47	\$2.04	\$1.93	\$2.16
increase	-4.73%	-5.73%	-17.41%	-5.47%	12.2%
Tax rate with the addition of four Fire Fighters					\$2.71
increase					41.2%
Tax rate with the addition of two Fire Fighters					\$2.43
increase					26.6%
Average Residential Tax Bill	\$1,358	\$1,403	\$1,455	\$1,549	\$1,739
increase	0.7%	3.4%	3.7%	6.5%	12.2%
Average Residential Tax Bill with four added Fire Fighters					\$2,176
increase					41.2%
Average Residential Tax Bill with two added Fire Fighters					\$1,951
increase					26.6%

NOTE: The Actual years reflect the actual tax levy and thus may not compute to that value

2023 FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Joe Maruca

We have a lot to cover in this report, but I believe it's critical to start by looking ahead at what we need to do in 2024.

Time to Hire Four More Career Firefighters – Here's Why

We must hire four additional career firefighters or our ability to provide you with the excellent service you expect will slide. It will slide faster than I anticipated when we addressed this topic last year. We must increase our full-time (career) firefighting/EMS staff from five to nine.

It has been 19 years since we hired any additional full-time/career firefighters at the WBFD¹. Nineteen years is an extraordinary period of time to keep our full-time staff at the same level.

In 2006 we increased career staffing to five firefighters and instituted 24-hour paramedic coverage. Since then, we have adjusted for growing call volume and a more complex mission by increasing our volunteer and part-time staffing. We haven't added a full-time firefighter position since then. Our system is suddenly strained to the point that it will degrade.

In June, 2023, two of our five career firefighter/paramedics left us without warning (more on this later). We advertised these two positions for three months (July, August, and September) and only received six applications. It took us until November 13th to fill one of the positions. In the meantime, our remaining three full-time staff had to cover five shifts. We have exhausted our staff and as a result, we are dealing with a host of morale and human-resource issues.

Annual Emergency Call Volume		Calendar Year	
1975:	156	2011:	649
1980:	309	2012:	608
1985:	326	2013:	654
1990:	305	2014:	630
1995:	396	2015:	760
2000:	431	2016:	629
2005:	536	2017:	628
2010:	567	2018:	661
		2019:	609
		2020:	629
		2021:	664
		2022:	673
		2023:	733
Overlapping/Simultaneous Incidents			
2023			
40 Incidents or 5%			

Ten years ago, we would have received fifty or more applications for these two full-time firefighter jobs. Today, we struggle to get applicants.

At the same time, we can no longer train new part-time and volunteer firefighters fast enough to overcome the speed at which other fire departments hire them away from us. Other departments are having the same difficulty hiring staff that we are, and that makes our volunteer staff a bigger and even more desirable target for their hiring.

We are coming up short on staffing. We have less and less experience among our staff. We need to bring a greater level of stability to our workforce. This means hiring additional full-time staff, and it means paying higher wages for our full and part-time staff in the near future.

¹ We did convert the Deputy Fire Chief position from part-time to full-time in 2014.

Why is this happening? What's changed? The demographics of our Village and Cape Cod have changed in ways that work against our mostly volunteer staffing model. Similarly, the economics of the Cape have changed and are working against us. The other fire departments around us have changed and their changes are affecting us. Society and culture have changed, and that changes how people work and connect with our community. All of this change has happened faster than we've been able to adapt.

Here's the situation:

- Half of Cape Cod's workforce now lives on the other side of the bridges. Five years ago, only about 25% of our workforce was off-Cape. There is no reason to expect this shift to reverse.

There are fewer working-age people available to volunteer at the WBFD. We have already started using volunteers from off-Cape, but in most cases, this isn't practical. While these volunteers are great for filling scheduled volunteer shifts, they aren't available for emergency call-back. And the bridge traffic and travel conditions ultimately make it too frustrating for them to stay with us long-term.

These same factors are barriers to successfully maintaining our part-time force. People, particularly the highly skilled, licensed, and trained people we need, aren't inclined to keep driving to West Barnstable for 15 or 20 hours per week, for a job that pays \$20/hour.

- Our pay scales have fallen behind. The starting salary of a full-time firefighter/paramedic at the WBFD is \$64,303. In 2023, the Provincetown FD hired 12 new career firefighter/paramedics with a starting salary of \$88,000. This is only \$2,000 a year less than we pay a full-time captain with 15 years of experience. Right now, our full-time staff can leave us and get better pay starting over as probationary firefighters with many of the other Cape Cod FDs.

And the Truro FD has just started paying \$103,000 starting salaries for firefighter/paramedics, with sign-on bonuses between \$3,000 and \$18,000.

Early in the year, one of our full-time Captains did just this and left us for a firefighter/paramedic job at the Barnstable FD – similar pay with less responsibility.

At \$20/hour, our pay for part-time staff is well below the industry norm. While we attract part-time staff with good working conditions, our training program, and a good workplace experience, we can't hold onto them at \$20/hour. Great working conditions and a great culture doesn't pay their bills.

Unskilled jobs at Stop & Shop start at \$18/hour. You need a full year of training and an EMT or Paramedic License to work part-time for us at \$20/hour.

- Our full-time staff can no longer afford to live here or live close by. As I write this, the average listing price for a house in West Barnstable is \$1.1 million. The lowest price for a house in WB is currently \$650,000. Townwide, the situation isn't very different. There are only seven houses for sale (townwide) for under \$500,000. A career firefighter getting paid \$65,000 a year will end up living in



Wareham, New Bedford, or Plymouth and commuting to work. We have run out of people who live in their parents' houses to fill our positions.

Homes for Sale in West Barnstable (again, as I write this – it's a moving target):

3bd/2ba House	\$650,000
3bd/2ba House	\$719,900
3bd/2ba House	\$729,000
4bd/3ba House	\$749,000
3bd/3ba House	\$849,000
4bd/3ba House	\$895,000
3bd/3ba House	\$1,200,000
3bd/3ba House	\$1,375,000
5bd/3ba Farm	\$3,200,000

According to the Zillow Affordability Calculator, you need an annual income of \$180,000/year to purchase the lowest price house in West Barnstable (\$650,000). To purchase the lowest priced house available in Centerville and Marstons Mills (\$450,000) requires an income of \$130,000.

All of the Cape FDs were originally designed with the idea that off-duty career firefighters would be available for emergency calls because they lived in or near the community they worked for.

This allowed us all to have smaller career staffs.

Additionally, we had paid on call and volunteer firefighters available. Housing costs have pushed our career and on-call (part-time) staff far enough away that they are no longer available to us for most emergency call-backs. Volunteers are much harder to hold than five years ago. This means we need more staff on duty because we can't quickly or reliably get staff back for unscheduled emergencies.

- We and Provincetown are the last two fire departments on Cape Cod that rely upon volunteers for much of our staff and emergency response. And Provincetown

just hired 12 full-time firefighters, moving further away from the mostly volunteer model. In 2023, Falmouth had twenty open positions for additional firefighters. Orleans is hiring another eight full-time firefighters. Truro added ten firefighters and Barnstable added two. In all, Cape

Firefighter Turnover West Barnstable FD: 2013 to 2023 Measured as of December 31 st of Each Year Does Not Include Firefighters in Training				
	Left WBFD to Become a Career Firefighter	Left WBFD – moved, work, family reasons	Total Leaving the WBFD	Turnover Percentage
2013	3	5	8	20%
2014	4	3	7	17.5%
2015	3	4	7	17.5%
2016	3	3	6	15%
2017	10	4	14	35%
2018	6	5	11	27.5%
2019	3	5	8	20%
2020	10	2	12	30%
2021	9	1	10	25%
2022	11	6	17	42.5%
2023	14	2	16	40%

FDs hired about fifty additional full-time firefighters in 2023. And almost all of the other Cape FDs anticipate more hiring in 2024.

What this means for us is that our volunteers and part-time staff are being hired away at a faster pace than ever before. We can't keep up. In March we added twenty new volunteer firefighters to our department, and nine months later, we've already lost five of them and they haven't even finished training. I suspect that by the time our 2023 recruits get their Firefighter Certification in early 2024, about nine of the original twenty will still be with us.

The past two years have seen a 40% turnover rate among our volunteer staff. This is twice the turnover rate of a decade ago.

Besides being hired away from us, our volunteers are working multiple jobs and long hours to pay their bills. This takes them away from us. It places a lot of stress on them. They are under great pressure between work and family for their time.

And, generally speaking, West Barnstable residents aren't stepping up to volunteer.

While the WBFD needs a large, well-trained volunteer force, we are going to have to operate with one that is smaller and less experienced than we have been used to. This means we must have a larger full-time staff to compensate for these changes.

- Additionally, firefighting isn't as attractive a job or avocation as it once was. Nationally, the fire service is having trouble attracting career and volunteer members. There are many complex reasons for the shift in peoples' desire for these jobs. The job is stressful and can be physically punishing – the media is full of stories about firefighter cancer and firefighter suicide --- not exactly the kind of outcomes that attract people. The pay hasn't kept up with housing prices. Youth are more interested in high-tech jobs than physically demanding jobs.

The public admires us in a general way, but we are getting more hostility on a personal level. Culturally, it has become OK to be rude and abusive towards people, especially public servants. People are videoing us to try to find us doing things wrong and post about it so they can criticize us. You have to pay us more to work under these kinds of conditions.

Hiring Four Career Firefighters for FY 2025 = \$369.

At this year's Annual Fire District Meeting, I am asking you to vote to fund four additional career/full-time firefighter positions for FY 2025 (starting on July 1, 2024).

Hiring four additional career firefighters will require \$569,902 and mean an increase in the typical annual real estate tax bill of \$369.

Yes, it's a lot of money relative to what you are used to, but please remember that we haven't added any full-time firefighters in 19 years. Over this same period of time, all of the other fire departments on Cape Cod have more than doubled the number of full-time/career firefighters on their staff.

this now, I think it will be many years before we have to seek a similar increase in staffing and funding. If don't do this, you'll likely experience a decrease in the quality of service.



And please keep in mind that while the fire district is not bound by the laws of Proposition 2 ½, we have done well managing our finances and voluntarily living within the intent of the Proposition 2 ½. Our tax levy increase from FY 2009 through FY 2023 has been 2.68%, well within the limits of Proposition 2 ½. While this proposal increases the tax levy beyond this level, it should settle down over the next two years.

Next, I can't stress enough that we've managed to avoid hiring additional career firefighters for 19 years. No other fire department in the region can say this.

The WBFD has, and will still have, the smallest full-time staff of any fire department on Cape Cod, and we have and will still have the smallest operating budget of the Cape Cod fire departments.

733 Fires & Emergency Incidents

There were two serious building fires in West Barnstable in 2023. I'm happy to report that in both cases, the WBFD was able to save both buildings and prevent a great deal of damage, and there were no injuries.

On February 4, 2023, at 4:56 PM, the WBFD was called to a fire at 1084 Main Street. It was 11 degrees outside. Fire had started inside a wall behind a fireplace, then spread into the basement, and was next spreading throughout the walls of the house. The first engine and tanker arrived with six firefighters (**Lt. Kim Sylvia**, with firefighters **Matt Cikins**, **Casey White**, **Karl Hemr**, **Christina Dauley**, and **Josh Kelleher**) within 5 minutes of the 911 call and the crew was able to quickly stop the spread of the fire by stretching a hose line into the basement.

Thirty-six firefighters, 14,400 gallons of water, and nine fire trucks were assembled in thirty-four minutes to extinguish this fire. While the fire caused substantial damage to the house, the house was saved, and a great deal of damage was prevented. Everyone did a great job handling this incident. Crews & trucks from Sandwich, Barnstable, and Joint Base Cape Cod assisted us with the fire.

On May 15, 2023, at 11:34 AM, we were dispatched to a fire at 2005 Main Street. Our first truck arrived with three firefighters (**Captain Troy Jewett**, with firefighters **Austin Moloney** and **Jacob Riker**) within 7 minutes of the 911 call. We found a detached garage with an apartment on the second-floor filling with smoke from a fire in the apartment. The fire was extinguished within five minutes of arrival with minimal damage to the building.

Sixteen firefighters and five trucks were assembled within twenty-nine minutes of the 911 call. The fire was within the hydrant district and tankers were not needed. The Barnstable and Sandwich FDs assisted with the incident. And, once again, everyone did a great job.

The Barnstable FD, Sandwich FD, and the West Barnstable FD have automatic aid agreements where we each automatically send a truck to any building fire in each other's community.

Also worth mentioning was an unusual brush fire at 1:15 AM, in the rain, in the West Barnstable Conservation Area, on April 23, 2023. The fire burned three (3) acres and it took twenty firefighters (from WB, Sandwich, and the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)) 2 ½ hours to extinguish. We had to stretch 2,700' of hose to fight this fire. We don't know how it started or got so big in the rain.

In terms of sheer numbers, we had a busy year. We responded to 733 emergency calls, an increase of sixty (60) emergency calls (8%) over last year. Of these calls, forty (40) incidents or 5% were overlapping emergencies where we had to respond to a second (and sometimes a third) emergency at the same time were already handling a first emergency call.

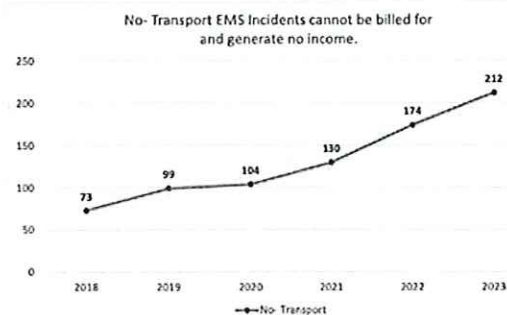
EMS – “No Transports” Trending Upward

The WBFD is experiencing a significant increase in the number of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls where we assist or provide first aid, but don't transport the patient to a hospital. Our rate of transport to the hospital incidents remained about the same from 2022 to 2023. The rise in “no transport” EMS calls is significant because by law we can only charge for EMS if we transport someone to the hospital. It costs us about the same to provide no-transport EMS services as it does to provide typical EMS with a trip to the hospital. This means that we are experiencing higher costs for EMS, without being able to recover those costs through billing.

We aren't entirely sure why this is happening. It is likely related to our aging demographic and their need for assistance in medical or mobility situations that aren't serious enough for hospital care.

EMS No-Transport Incident Growth West Barnstable Fire Department January 15, 2024

The WBFD is experiencing an increase in no-transport EMS incidents.



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
EMS Calls	289	317	290	398	408	425
No-Transport	73	99	104	130	174	212
% No-Transport	25%	31%	36%	33%	43%	50%

Impact: This results in higher costs with less revenue

New Volunteers - Welcome

On March 30, 2023, the WBFD started its largest volunteer training class ever, when we added twenty (20) new members to the department. This group trained each Monday and Thursday evening, and Sunday morning from April through June to be qualified to respond to emergency incidents starting in the summer. After gaining field experience over the summer, their training continued in September to prepare them for the state's Firefighter Certification Exam in 2024.

The new volunteer firefighters were **Brianna Hall, Andrew Riley, Robert Runci, Shane Ryder, Jill Albanese, Heather Malkani, Abigail Hall, Derren Eaton, Nazir Haider, Cameron McCormack, Wayne MacDonald, Kourtney Sassone, Anthony Iachetta, Abigail Moloney, Matthew Eveland, Daniel Salvatore, Jack Schofield, Nathaniel Taddia, Shawn Haislet, and Azaiya White.**

Later in the year, we were joined by **Kamron Sassone**. Kamron was already a certified firefighter, having received his training and certification at Southern Maine Community College. (Massachusetts is the only

state that doesn't allow colleges to teach basic firefighting and certify firefighters in order to maintain a monopoly for the state fire academy.). Kam was immediately able to start responding to emergency calls.

Unfortunately, of the twenty new volunteers who joined our training program in March, eight left the WBFD by the end of the year. Two were hired by other departments, one moved to Florida, and the rest left because their primary jobs and family commitments didn't allow enough time to continue.

In September, we reached out to volunteer firefighter applicants from last year, that were on our waiting list to join (we are the only department in Massachusetts with a waiting list to join its volunteer force) to join the training class already in session. Two people joined us, **Tom Daly** and **Max Nichols**. They are training with our current group and will join the next class to pick up the training they missed.



Promotions & A New Face

When Captain Murray left us early in the year, we hired **Austin Moloney**, one of our volunteer firefighter/paramedics, to fill the vacancy. We then **promoted Austin to Lieutenant**, and he is now serving as our Group 3 Shift Commander. He is also transitioning into the role of incumbent member training coordinator. Austin comes from a family with a tradition in the volunteer fire service; his grandfather was the volunteer Chief of the Holliston FD. He brings a lot of energy, ability, and vision to the job. Austin is also a member of the Cape Cod Regional Technical Rescue Team.

Two additional career firefighter/paramedics left in June, and we had no paramedics among our volunteer and part-time staff to promote so we advertised the jobs. Over three months we received only six applications – there is a shortage of paramedics in the state, and a serious shortage of workers on Cape Cod. But, one candidate stood out, and we got lucky. **Paul Donovan**, an experienced

firefighter/paramedic who lives in Falmouth and was commuting to the Medway FD applied. Paul has been great. He started his career as an urban firefighter with the Norfolk Virginia FD, and he led the transition of the Medway FD to become an Advance Life Support (ALS) ambulance service. He is now our Group 1 shift commander, and he's a wonderful instructor. He brings a great deal of skill, experience and compassion to the job.

As the year ended, we were still working on filling the third vacancy on our career staff. I expect it to be filled early in 2024 (well before you read this report).

Kim Sylvia was promoted to Captain. Kim has served with the WBFD, starting as a volunteer, since 2011. Kim wears lots of hats at the WBFD. She's our Group 2 Shift Commander, the EMS Officer, and Community Education Coordinator. She's managing the hiring process for new volunteer firefighters. She is constantly moving forward and learning more in service to our community.

Volunteer Firefighter Matt Cikins was promoted to Lieutenant. Matt is a longtime volunteer, having joined us in 2015. Matt is a great instructor and high-level participant at the WBFD. He is also serving as the Group 2 Executive Officer. (The Group Executive Officer is a volunteer who is second in command of the group or shift on duty.)



Finally, Volunteer Firefighter **Jeffrey Gruenglas** became a member of the regional Juvenile Fire Setter Task Force. Shout out to Jeff for taking on this new responsibility and deeper involvement in the fire service.

Summer Seasonals & Interns

We had a large and talented group of Summer Seasonal Firefighters and Interns at the WBFD in 2023.

Over the summer we were joined by five seasonal firefighters with great qualifications who helped get us through the summer while we were short on career staff and volunteers and still training our newest members. They were **Pablo Almeida**, a UMass student and member of the Amherst Fire Department's Student Force, **Will Boemer**, a Colgate University Student and member of the Colgate Volunteer Fire Department, **Aidan Clark**, a Southern Maine Community College Student who got his fire/EMS training in college and volunteered at the Standish Maine FD, **Jack Hamel**, a Creighton University Student who volunteered as an EMS provider, and **Caitlyn Joyce**, a returning seasonal who graduated from Williams College and volunteered with us as an EMT.

We host Barnstable High School Interns. All of the Barnstable Fire Districts host BHS students as interns. We provide them with training, and they can respond with us to emergency incidents (with certain limitations). **Nathan Stanley** was with us until his high school graduation and then we went on to West Point. In the Fall, **Daniel McCarthy** joined us as our new intern, and he is participating in our volunteer training program.

Additionally, in September, we added an Intern from Lower Cape Tech, **Kali Burnham**. Kali joined our training class and is preparing to become a volunteer firefighter in 2024.

More so than in any other year, the 2023 Summer Seasonals and Interns stepped up and did a tremendous amount of work for the WBFD. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for going above and beyond expectations. We look forward to their return in 2024.

Big Loss of Staff - Where Did They All Go?

In 2023, seventeen (17) incumbent members of the department left us, and eight (8) trainees left us. Here's where they all went.

Chloe Higginbotham left us for a career job at the Hyannis FD after two years of volunteer service at the WBFD. Also going to the Hyannis FD was volunteer **Harrison Duchesney** who joined the WBFD in 2022.

Volunteer Firefighter **Nicholas Hill** took a full-time job at the Mashpee FD. Nick joined us in 2022.

Abigale Corey and **Casey White** were hired by the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills FD. Abby started with us as a High School Intern in 2019, soon she became a volunteer firefighter, and then a part-time firefighter. Casey started volunteering with us in 2022.

The Yarmouth FD claimed long-time volunteer firefighter **Robert Crosby**. Bob joined us six years ago and was a driver/operator of all of our trucks and the Group 1 Executive Officer.

Captain Bill Murray, a longtime career firefighter who started with the WBFD in 2006, and volunteer firefighter **Alex Smith** who joined in 2021, both left us and joined the Barnstable FD. The loss of Captain Murray was a particularly difficult loss for the department. He was our Health & Safety Officer, our IT manager, a great paramedic, and the Group 3 Shift Commander. Bill has signed on with us as a vendor to help us manage IT.

Volunteer Firefighter **Ryan Friel** was hired by the Chatham FD after serving two years at the WBFD.

Collin Sylvester, who started at the WBFD as a Barnstable High School Intern, then became a volunteer firefighter, and then a part-time firefighter, and who served with us for four years, took a full-time firefighter job with Eastham FD.

Jacob Riker, first a volunteer and then a part-time firefighter, who joined us two years ago, left us for a career firefighter position at the Brewster FD. (It seems Brewster has eliminated its volunteer force and is going to hire ours.)

Then we were blindsided by the loss of our daytime career **Lieutenant Luke Walsh**. Luke was hired by the Wellfleet FD and had been with the WBFD since 2015. The upsetting part of this loss was that Luke left us days after he graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. It is clear to me that the Wellfleet town manager, Select Board, and Fire Chief knew they were going to hire him, knew he was in the fire academy, but waited until he graduated, and we had paid all of the costs (about \$40,000) for his attendance at the fire academy. There is nothing we can legally do about this.

And we also lost career **Lieutenant Curtis Cottrell**, who originally left the fire service after deciding he wanted to find a new career. But after a few months he ended up taking one of the 20 open positions at the Falmouth Fire Department. Curtis was an eight-year veteran of the WBFD and our Group 1 Shift

Commander. (It's also worth noting again here that firefighters at the WBFD have greater organizational responsibilities for lower pay, than at larger departments.)

Josh Kelleher, a volunteer firefighter for one-year, left us to move to Central Massachusetts and take a job as an environmental police officer. Josh left us, and a full-time job for the Town of Barnstable, because he was seeking affordable housing and better pay.

And we lost another of our part-time (and former volunteer) firefighters by hiring him full time. We hired **Austin Moloney** and promoted him to lieutenant to fill the vacancy created when Captain Murray left us. Austin is a paramedic and joined the WBFD in 2020.

As if all of this is not enough, we lost eight members of our training class before they even finished training or their first year with the department. **Brianna Hall**, **Abigale Hall**, **Abigail Moloney**, and **Azaiya White** all left because family and work commitments didn't allow enough time to continue with our training program. **Kourtney Sassone** left us to move to Florida in search of a new job, affordable housing and an overall "better lifestyle."

Trainee **Robert Runci** was hired by the Provincetown FD. Trainee **Anthony Iachetta** was hired by the Yarmouth FD and trainee **Cameron McCormack** was hired by the Sandwich FD.

Robert Flynn took a leave of absence in late 2023, and as the year ended, he told us he'd be leaving the department to move to Western Massachusetts for a better job and affordable housing. Bobby started volunteering with us in April of 2023.

Last, but not least, Lieutenant Steven Frye started splitting time between Cape Cod and Florida, so we only have his services for a few months each year, and I suspect it won't be long before he permanently moves to Florida. Steve has volunteered with us for ten years. He's an excellent fire instructor and has strong leadership skills. He's retired from the US Coast Guard.

Updating Our Bylaws



There are two articles on the April District Meeting Warrant (Agenda) that would amend the Fire District Bylaws. The first of these, ARTICLE 18, is to correct typos from the original enactments and eliminate a few contradictions or lawfully suspect clauses. This should not result any substantive changes to the Bylaws or how the district is governed.

I must give credit to **Kris Clark** who has been urging me for years to clean up all the typos in our Bylaws. I spent months going through our Bylaws and figuring out which typos happened after we enacted the Bylaws or an amendment, and which ones were legally enacted. I probably spent forty (40) or fifty (50) hours on this project over a few months. The good news is that most of the errors could be fixed without amending the Bylaws. If you go on the Fire District Website and look at our Bylaws, you will see my corrected version with all the errors removed, except for those requiring a vote.

The second of these articles, ARTICLE 19, completely rewrites the sections of the Bylaws dealing with the Fire Chief and the Deputy Fire Chief. The current bylaws do not reflect reality. They assume the Deputy Chief is a part-time or volunteer member of the department. The requirements for the Chief and Deputy

Chief are different and don't match. The residency requirements are different and unrealistic – i.e., the Chief must live within 10 miles of the fire district border, but the Deputy must live in West Barnstable.

What I am recommending is that the requirements for the job of Chief and Deputy Chief be almost identical since it is likely the Deputy will someday be Chief, and in any case must fill in for the Chief on routine basis. The residency requirements will now be the same. And, while the department can still have a part-time or volunteer Deputy or Assistant Chief, the bylaws should recognize that the number two in command can be a full-time Deputy Chief.

I've been hesitant to tackle the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief bylaws out of concern that people would think I was somehow benefiting myself with some legal sleight of hand. But now that I'll be retired on April 28th, there can be no perceived benefit for me. And, with a change of leadership, this is a good time to update things. The amendments don't change any of the power of the Fire Chief or Deputy. They don't change your authority as district meeting or take an executive or oversight powers from the Prudential Committee. They are technical in nature and designed to be in line with actual practices and Human Resources best practices, and to better address the demographics/economics of Cape Cod.

Both articles are wordy. I won't use any more space here to go through them in detail, but I am available and happy to answer any questions or review them with anyone. Email me, stop by, or call.

Three Additional Spending Articles

Article 16 on the April 24th District Meeting Warrant (Agenda) is an article to spend \$90,000 from our general stabilization fund (savings) to purchase a new administrative/response SUV for the new Deputy Fire Chief. One of the free SUVs that we got last year, that I drove as my Fire Chief SUV, has died. Rust rotted out the frame where the rear axle connected. I'm back to driving my personal pickup truck as the Fire Chief's vehicle (as I've done for 19 years). The WBFD has managed to go almost 75 years without buying a Fire Chief SUV, it's time. This article does not increase taxes.

Article 17 asks to spend \$76,000 from general stabilization to design, engineer, and permit a renovation of the second floor of the fire station. We need to completely rearrange the second floor to improve our sleeping areas. Last year, we appropriated money to create a women's bunk room. As with many small projects, once you start digging into things the project grows. We need to reengineer the heating, air conditioning, and fire sprinkler system to accommodate not just a women's bunk room, but improvements to the shift commander's sleeping area and the men's bunkroom. We are going to try and create some individual and smaller separate sleeping areas to get away from the big communal sleeping space. We are the last fire station on the Cape (and one of few remaining in the state) with a big communal sleeping area. The fire service has been moving to small individual bedrooms for over thirty years.

After we've designed and permitted the project, we'll return next year to ask for the funds needed to do the construction. We won't know the construction cost until after the project is designed and permitted.

This article does not increase taxes.

Article 20 is a request by the Water Commissioners to increase their appropriate in Article Six by \$15,000 to allow them to hire consultants and lawyers. This article will increase the tax levy by $\frac{3}{4}$ %.

The Electric Substations

Over the past year, there's been a desire by people for me to declare the various electric substation projects slated for West Barnstable as a serious or unusual public safety hazard. They aren't.

The West Barnstable FD is quite capable of managing a fire or other emergency at electrical substations. We have one now on Oak Street. The addition of the two new substations is not a new hazard to the WBFD or our community, it is simply another location for an existing and well-understood hazard.

A lot is made of the fact that if an electrical substation catches fire that fire departments don't extinguish the fire. Instead, we isolate the fire, keep it from spreading, and let it burn itself out. Water and electricity don't mix. Fire departments have been successfully managing substation fires like this for more than 100 years. And we deal with small fires involving transformers and dielectric oil every time there is a storm and there are fires on electrical poles. While these fires are spectacular looking, there are many more hazardous situations in West Barnstable that we all live with every day.

For instance, a 12,000-gallon gasoline tanker crash and fire on Route 6 will be much more hazardous than a substation fire. Depending upon where it crashes, the fire and explosion will threaten homes and people in cars, and a spill will get into the groundwater and pollute people's private wells.



We have a high volume, high pressure natural gas line that runs along the Service Road. If it leaks and explodes (highly unlikely) the fire and explosion will be much bigger than an electrical substation fire. And the railroad parks train cars full of anhydrous ammonia, a toxic gas, on the siding by the Village Store. An anhydrous ammonium leak would require us to evacuate everyone within a 1-mile radius.

We lack fire hydrants, and we have a pre-school for infants and toddlers in an old wooden building with no fire sprinkler system. This is a set-up for disaster.

Railroad tanker cars carrying up to 30,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia, a toxic gas, can be found parked on the siding across from the Old Village Store. If one of these tank cars leaks, we will have to immediately evacuate a radius of 1-mile around the leaking RR car.

On the scale of true hazards, from a fire protection and hazmat protection standpoint, electric substations aren't a significant threat.

Water

A few final thoughts on water. We have no fire hydrants or water system in most of West Barnstable. This is by your choice. I've advocated that we should pro-actively seek ways to get municipal water and fire hydrants throughout the village, or as much of the village as we can. If your private well gets polluted, you are on your own. Unfortunately, we have no strategic plan for water.

I urge you all to get pro-active and start planning for water. We are missing the chance to partner with the Town when they build a well behind the fire station and start pumping water to Hyannis. We should be making a deal with the Town to run water mains, connect homes, and install hydrants in the eastern side of our village. Instead, I fear that the water main will run through the woods to Hyannis and provide no benefit to West Barnstable. If Hyannis takes your water and gives us nothing in return, that is our fault, not the Town's.

The Barnstable Fire District is looking for additional sources of water and will probably come to West Barnstable soon to get that water. We should be pro-active and partner with them to install the facilities we need for water when they are installing their facilities to provide water to Barnstable Village. We should also be exploring a deal with the COMM FD to run water up RT 149 into the center of our Village.

It's been said that installing water is too expensive. It is expensive, but someday you will have to act if and when we face pollution or water quality problems with our private wells. The price of installing water will never go down. The price of installing water probably doubles every six or seven years. A \$10 million water project of 2005 is easily a \$40 million project today. Don't miss the chance to partner with other water providers now, while they have needs that we can help them fill – that is the best and least expensive way to address this issue.

Fire Trucks & Ambulances – Prices Rising

The cost of purchasing fire trucks and ambulances is increasing at a rapid rate, and delivery times are stretching out into years. The new Engine-Tanker 296 we set out to purchase two years ago - and we are paying about \$700,000 for - would cost more than \$900,000 if ordered today. We aren't far away from seeing fire engines routinely costing \$1 million or more. We had hoped our new Engine-Tanker 296 would be delivered by now, but at best, we might see it by summer. The manufacturers are telling everyone to plan for three years for the delivery of a new fire truck.

We've also been told to expect two years for the delivery of a new ambulance, and that ambulance prices are now in the \$400,000 range, and they will soon rise in cost to \$500,000 or more.

This is creating a challenge for all small-town fire departments when it comes to planning the replacement of trucks and ambulances, and when it comes to affording them. For the WBFD, this means acquiring more used fire trucks and buying fewer new trucks. As the year ended, we were negotiating with Provincetown to acquire their 2002 fire engine to replace our ladder truck. (The ladder truck is once again looking at the need for extensive maintenance and repairs, and no longer makes sense for us to own.)

We are fortunate that the WBFD does not have a great deal of debt and that we have been putting money aside every year towards the purchase of our next ambulance. We are better positioned to address this issue than most departments of our size or smaller than us. (The WBFD sits right in the middle of the fire service; half of all fire departments in the United States are smaller than us, and half are bigger than us.)



The WBFD's capital planning budgets are available on the fire district website so you can see our future truck and equipment replacement needs.

Transition to New Leadership

Deputy Chief David Paananen will become Fire Chief on April 28, 2024, upon my retirement. Dave has been serving alongside me for thirty years and has been second in command for fourteen years. We started actively transitioning to Dave as Chief more than two years ago and he is well prepared to take over.

Dave will bring his own special skills and vision to the West Barnstable FD. While we share many of the same ideas and traits, Dave will be very different from me, and that will be good. The WBFD is ready for a new direction and new leadership. Over the years, I've kept nothing from Dave, and he has seen every aspect of what I do as Fire Chief, far more than most deputies see. Therefore, he is one of the best prepared Deputy Chiefs to step into the Chief's role.

Dave Paananen is mission focused. He isn't out for glory or gain, and everything he does and will do, will be for the greater good. You can expect honesty. You can expect solid financial management. You will have a Chief who cares about people.



Also joining the leadership team, as the next Deputy Fire Chief, is **Todd Brunelle**. As I write this, I've never met Todd. (I'm skipping ahead a bit to the 2024 report.) The choice of Todd Brunelle was made by David Paananen and the Prudential Committee. Other than facilitating some technical aspects of the process, I did not participate in the hiring of the Deputy Chief. It was important that the new Deputy Chief be the right fit for the new Chief, not for me.

We had thirty-five applicants for the Deputy Chief position. We used an assessment center process, managed by an outside management/HR consultant, to narrow the field down to the best candidates. The process took us about five months.

Deputy Chief Todd Brunelle comes to us with a unique background – he has previously served as the Fire Chief of the Turners Falls (MA) Fire Department. The Turners Falls FD is a bigger, busier department than the WBFD, but it is still a combination fire department that uses both career and volunteer firefighters. I think that Todd's experience as a Chief will make the team of Chief Paananen and Deputy Brunelle formidable.

We should all be looking forward to this new leadership team and the improvements they will bring to the WBFD.

And Now It's Time to Say "Goodbye"

My last day at the WBFD will be Sunday, April 28, 2024. At about 4:00 PM that day I will accomplish the last of the goals I set twenty years ago, and I will transfer command of the department to Chief David Paananen. In the history of our department there has never been an orderly transfer of command. Having ascended to the position of Chief during a period of chaotic and unsettling months, I was determined that when I left, the WBFD would transition smoothly with an eye towards future success.



You are all invited to come by the fire station for the Change of Command Ceremony, and then afterwards, walk across the street to Meetinghouse Farm for my retirement bonfire and pizza party.

A quick recap: I started informally leading the WBFD in April, 2005 and was appointed Fire Chief in September 2005. Before that I had served as volunteer firefighter for twenty-seven years in Longmeadow, Sandwich, and West Barnstable. My profession was attorney. I didn't run away *from* being a lawyer, I ran *to* being Fire Chief. I loved practicing law – it's a great calling and one I recommend. But being Fire Chief is also a great calling and extra special because very few people get to serve as Fire Chief. There are more lawyers in Barnstable than there are Fire Chiefs in Massachusetts and maybe even in all of New England.

I didn't think I would stay as your Fire Chief for twenty years, but I never felt the job was done. And it isn't. The fire department goes on beyond any of us who serve, so by its very nature, the job of Fire Chief is never done.

When you become Fire Chief, you are the Chief 24/7 and the job becomes your identity. There is never a moment that you aren't the Fire Chief. You are always responsible for the health and safety of the people of West Barnstable, your firefighters, and visitors to our village. After twenty years, while I am sad to be leaving, I do look forward to having the weight of responsibility lifted from my shoulders, and discovering who I am and will be, when I am not the Fire Chief.

I can't possibly list all the people who have helped me make the WBFD the great fire department that it is today so I will simply say this: Twenty years ago, we were poorly organized and not particularly effective; people routinely waited sixteen or seventeen minutes for an ambulance and buildings burned. Today, we are recognized as among the best fire departments in the country, and we deliver excellent service. About three hundred seventy-five (375) firefighters, EMS providers, and administrative staff have passed through the WBFD during my time as Chief, and I must thank them all. Without their participation, ideas, and efforts, I could not have succeeded, and the department would not have achieved greatness.



I have to thank you, all of the citizens of West Barnstable, for having faith in me and allowing me to serve as your Fire Chief.

To all of the men and women who served with me, and to all of the citizens of West Barnstable who have supported me and this department, I say: We succeeded. We weren't just passing time and doing a job. We saved lives, we saved homes, we helped people, and we made a difference in the quality of life. On April 28th I will leave the WBFD, and I won't look back. I won't be hanging around and kibbitzing about the past and the future. The future of West Barnstable and the West Barnstable Fire Department is now in your hands.

And so goodbye, and God bless.

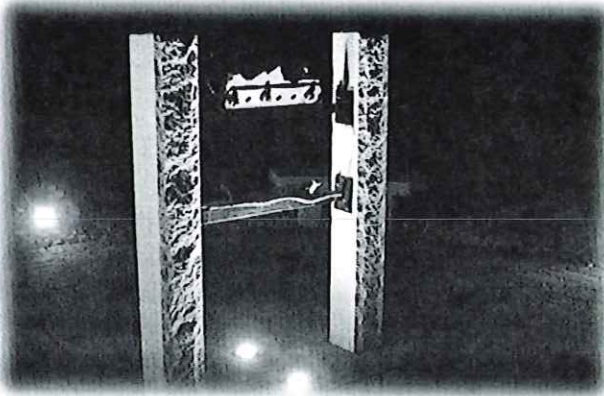
Chief Joe Maruca
West Barnstable Fire Department
C-291

"I have learned that if you must leave a place that you have lived in and loved and where all your yesteryears are buried deep, leave it any way except a slow way, leave it the fastest way you can. Never turn back and never believe that an hour you remember is a better hour because it is dead. Passed years seem safe ones, vanquished ones, while the future lives in a cloud, formidable from a distance."

— Beryl Markham, West with the Night

9/11 Memorial at West Barnstable FD

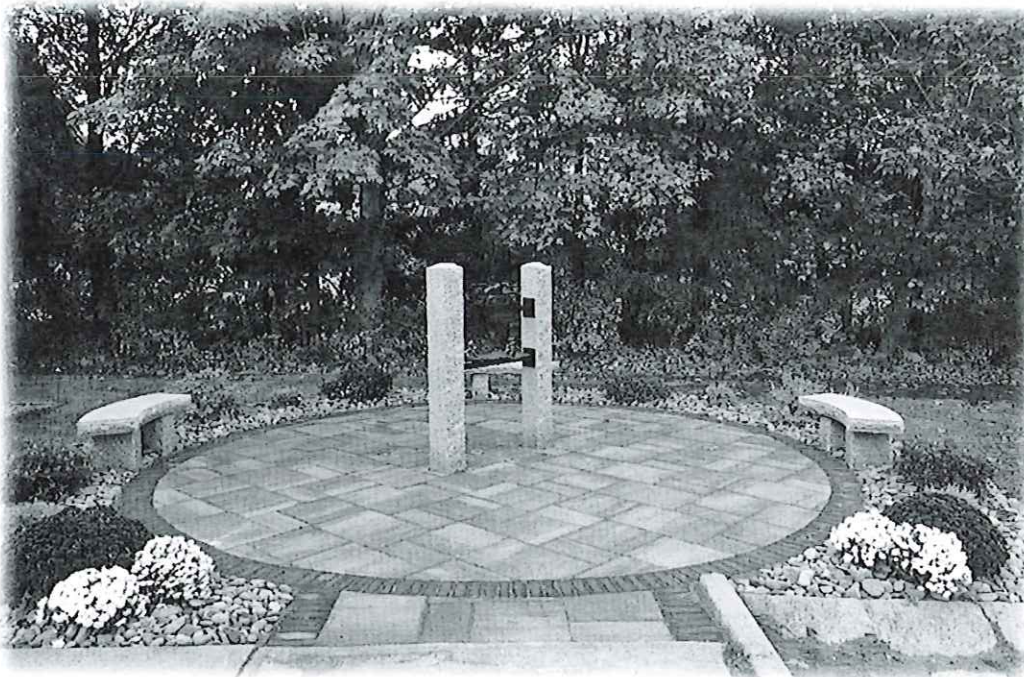
In 2023, members of the West Barnstable Fire Department constructed a 9/11 Memorial in the yard at the fire station. The memorial is located at the front of the station, just to the right (as you face the building from the street) of the front door. It is open to all, and you are invited to come, visit, and reflect at the memorial.



The Memorial contains two pieces of steel from the World Trade Center. The steel was presented to West Barnstable by the Fire Department of New York City (FDNY).

Retired FDNY Firefighter Phil Scozzarella was instrumental in obtaining the steel on our behalf. Phil's wife, Heather, is the WBFD's Administrative Assistant. Thank you, Heather & Phil.

West Barnstable Firefighters constructed the Memorial using mostly donated materials. While this was a team effort, a special shoutout is due to WBFD Firefighter, Alexander "Zander" Cowan and his company, Cowan Property Management, Lt. Austin Moloney, and Kevin Schneider, who invested an enormous amount of their time and effort into managing this project and making it come to life.



West Barnstable Fire District
Calls by Type

Type of Call	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Animal Rescue	4	1	1	-	1	3
Assist Police / Other Government Agencies	7	13	14	104	9	15
Automatic Fire Alarm	76	56	61	57	53	71
Boat Fire	-	-	-	-	1	-
Burning Without a Permit	5	5	8	11	7	6
Carbon Monoxide	7	5	1	2	7	7
Cellar/Water Pumping	2	7	2	-	4	5
Elevator Rescue	2	2	1	1	-	2
EMS	384	356	348	253	308	309
Explosion/Rupture/Overhead	-	1	2	1	7	2
Hazmat	17	11	11	10	8	11
Missing Person	-	-	-	1	-	-
Motor Vehicle Crashes versus Pedestrian	1	1	-	-	2	-
Motor Vehicle Crashes with Injury	39	32	24	27	24	29
Motor Vehicle Crashes without Injury	17	18	15	16	18	27
Motor Vehicle Fire	3	2	6	2	2	4
Mutual Aid - EMS	37	28	35	18	18	25
Mutual Aid - Fire	13	13	18	11	18	10
Mutual Aid - MVC	8	8	5	4	8	5
Mutual Aid - Other	15	13	10	10	13	11
Mutual Aid - Coverage	7	12	7	3	16	10
Oil Burner Malfunction	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other	1	-	1	2	2	1
Outside Equipment Fire	-	1	-	2	1	-
Prescribed Fire (Local and Regional)	2	4	-	4	2	-
Public Assist	24	39	14	21	29	38
Ring or Jewelry Removal	2	-	-	-	-	1
Smoke in the Building	3	-	-	2	5	3
Standby/Coverage	2	1	-	-	1	-
Structure Fire	5	-	-	3	2	3
Structure Fire - Chimney Fire	-	-	1	-	-	-
Structure Fire - Cooking Fire	-	2	1	5	1	2
Structure Fire - Electrical Fire	5	6	5	5	5	5
Trench Rescue	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unfounded/Mistakes/False	30	25	34	23	18	22
Utility Pole Fire/Wires Down	5	13	9	15	5	16
Water Rescue	2	-	2	-	1	-
Weather Emergencies	1	8	19	7	6	9
Wildland Fires	7	10	8	9	7	8
Total	733	694	664	629	609	661

Comments

Emergency Incidents continue to grow each year by about 5% per year. There are occasional spikes in emergency incidents because winter and tropical storms can generate a high number of incidents in a few days.

West Barnstable Fire District Fire Loss Data

2023 Fire Loss Data by Property Type

Incident Type	Count	Total Value	Total Losses	Total Saved	Percent Saved
Structure Fire	3	\$ 1,027,100	\$ 30,500	\$ 996,600	97.03%
Vehicle Fire	2	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 500	4.76%
Total	5	\$ 1,037,600	\$ 40,500	\$ 997,100	96.10%

Fire Loss Data by Year

Year	Count	Total Value	Total Losses	Total Saved	Percent Saved
2023	-	\$ 1,037,600	\$ 40,500	\$ 997,100	96.10%
2022	-	\$ 5,969,300	\$ 6,052	\$ 5,963,248	99.90%
2021	-	\$ 619,100	\$ 276,500	\$ 342,600	55.34%
2020	-	\$ 1,125,700	\$ 68,000	\$ 1,057,700	93.96%
2019	-	\$ 66,600	\$ 16,700	\$ 49,900	74.92%
2018	-	\$ 3,080,900	\$ 32,000	\$ 3,048,900	98.96%

Comments

The West Barnstable FD continues to be effective at preventing serious fire losses. In two of the three significant house fires that occurred in 2023, the WBFD's fast and effective response resulted in saving the homes. Twenty-five years ago, we might not have saved these properties, or the damage would have been much greater.

Over the past twenty years, the WBFD has significantly improved its fire suppression efficiency and effectiveness. We haven't lost an occupied house in twenty years. Most of the damage and fire loss has occurred in unoccupied or vacant buildings where notifying us was delayed.

Additionally, the WBFD is a Class 2 Fire Department within 1000' of a Fire Hydrant, and it is a Class 3 Fire Department in areas without fire hydrants. This is on a scale (by the insurance industry for measuring fire department effectiveness) of 1 to 10, where a 1 is the best. This places us in the top 10% of fire departments in the country.

Our community benefits greatly from our excellent staffing and training.



West Barnstable Fire District Mutual Aid Summary

Mutual Aid Given											
	2023										
	EMS	Fire	MVC	Other	Coverage	Total	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Sandwich	17	2	3	6	-	28	23	31	21	25	21
Barnstable	8	6	5	4	2	25	30	26	14	28	28
COMM	3	2	-	3	2	10	10	10	10	9	6
Hyannis	1	-	-	2	-	3	5	2	-	3	2
Dennis	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Cotuit	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Mashpee	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	-
Falmouth	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	-
Orleans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Brewster	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
JBCC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Yarmouth	2	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	2	1
Wellfleet	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Bourne	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Truro	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Harwich	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Provincetown	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total Mutual Aid Given	37	13	8	15	7	80	74	75	46	75	61
Total WBFD Incidents						733	694	664	629	609	661
Percent Mutual Aid Given						10.9%	10.7%	11.3%	7.3%	12.3%	9.2%

Mutual Aid Received							
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
Total Mutual Aid Received	32	28	39	20	20	42	
Total WBFD Incidents	733	694	664	629	609	661	
Percent Mutual Aid Received	4.4%	4.0%	5.9%	3.2%	3.3%	6.4%	

Comments

Mutual Aid continues to be stable. About 10% of the department's emergency calls are to assist other communities, and about 5% of the time, the WBFD needs assistance from our neighboring fire departments. This means we are staffed and deployed in a way that we can handle 95% of West Barnstable emergency incidents without assistance.

The WBFD is part of the Barnstable County Mutual Aid System and the Statewide Mutual Aid System, as are all of the fire departments on Cape Cod. Each participant in the system is responsible for their own costs for responses to other communities.



West Barnstable Fire District Emergency Response Times

Response time is measured from the time the dispatcher answered the 911 call to the time the 1st fire unit arrived on location. Response times are shown in minutes and seconds.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Fire						
Number of Incidents	11	14	16	19	12	14
90th Percentile Time	09:02	09:17	08:05	09:15	08:00	07:38
50th Percentile Time	06:23	05:00	06:36	06:39	06:00	04:48
EMS						
Number of Incidents	371	344	317	243	294	276
90th Percentile Time	07:58	08:35	08:14	08:07	07:36	07:00
50th Percentile Time	05:32	06:02	05:49	05:37	05:00	05:00
MVC						
Number of Incidents	48	41	34	38	37	46
90th Percentile Time	08:21	06:58	08:15	07:27	07:00	08:16
50th Percentile Time	05:16	05:21	05:57	05:04	05:00	03:46
Other						
Number of Incidents	191	193	183	163	171	222
90th Percentile Time	10:12	09:51	09:34	09:43	09:00	10:28
50th Percentile Time	06:40	06:26	06:26	05:44	05:38	05:38
All Incident Types						
Number of Incidents	621	592	550	463	514	558
90th Percentile Time	08:47	09:10	08:53	08:46	08:00	08:14
50th Percentile Time	05:45	06:07	06:00	05:39	05:06	05:09

Comments

Response times continue to fall within expectations and within national standards. Response times to building fires has crept up by a minute or minute and half over the past five years. There are two possible reasons for this. First, with a small number of fires, one or two fires being further away from the fire station can change the averages significantly. Second, our volunteer force and off-duty members are living further and further away from the fire station because they can no longer afford to live here, and this means that it takes longer to assemble an engine crew (3 to 5 firefighters) at the station.

Similar factors may explain the slight increase in response time to motor vehicle crashes (MVC), however, sometimes locating MVCs is difficult and takes longer than expected. A handful of difficult accidents to locate can change the averages. "Other" incidents are of less risk, and we respond slower for safety reasons.

*90% Response Time means that the West Barnstable Fire Department arrived at an emergency scene within or sooner than the time shown 90% of the time.

**Average Response Time indicates that half of the time the WBFD will arrive sooner than the time shown, and half of the time it will arrive later than the time shown. The 90% Response Time is a more accurate and reliable expectation for the WBFD to respond to any particular incident.

West Barnstable Fire District Busiest Locations

Busiest Locations								
Year	Route 6	CCCC	Burger King Complex Partially	Kimber Woods	Lombard Farms	YMCA	Sandy Neck	Knight's Inn / Craigville Motel
	Tax Exempt	Tax Exempt	Tax-Exempt	Tax Exempt	Tax Exempt	Tax Exempt	Tax Exempt	
2023	50	16	29	15	34	28	16	16
2022	50	25	28	8	20	8	17	7
2021	42	40	26	12	8	5	23	9
2020	42	112	27	10	12	5	13	5
2019	30	38	29	16	8	9	14	5
2018	46	43	26	18	5	12	19	5
2017	39	47	25	20	6	9	18	3
2016	42	31	25	21	4	17	11	3
2015	55	32	30	18	15	11	8	4
2014	35	43	15	27	9	8	14	23
2013	40	49	17	19	5	8	9	37
2012	28	48	30	24	10	8	18	29

Trailing Five Year Averages								
2019-2023	43	46	28	12	16	11	17	8

Comments

In 2023, 181 emergency incidents or 25% of the West Barnstable FD's emergency incidents occurred at eight locations (shown above), and these are all tax-exempt properties that do not pay real estate taxes to our fire district. This has been the case in our community for decades and does not change too much from year to year.



West Barnstable Fire District

Inspection Data and Building Types

Inspection Data						
Inspection Type	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors (GL Ch. 26F)	25	55	49	56	46	53
Permit/Plan Review	66	61	-	-	-	-
New Fire Alarm Systems	3	2	5	7	11	9
Ammo Storage	3	3	3	3	3	3
Propane Tank Installations	8	6	3	3	6	9
Oil Tank Removals (GL Ch. 21E)	3	7	1	7	-	5
Oil Tank Installations	6	3	3	1	9	1
Oil Burner Installations	4	2	3	4	-	3
Fuel Tank Truck	1	1	-	2	-	5
Fire Suppression Systems Installations	4	-	1	-	-	-
Welding Permits	-	1	-	1	3	-
Solar Energy Storage Systems (SESS)	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total	125	141	68	84	78	88
<p>Fire inspections are generally stable. This is expected in a village with few new buildings and a stable population. The majority of inspections are for smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors as required at the sale of a home. Smoke detector inspections are an indicator of the real estate sale activity in the village and new construction/renovations. In 2022, we started tracking plan reviews for new construction or renovations.</p> <p>Deputy Chief David Paananen handles our inspections.</p> <p>In addition to these legally required inspections, the WBFD does pre-incident planning inspections of all businesses, commercial properties and public assemblies (churches, YMCA, pre-schools, etc.) on an annual basis.</p>						

Building Types						
Type	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Single Family Homes	1,170	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,160	1,154
Miscellaneous	22	22	22	22	20	20
Apartments	3	3	3	4	4	5
Commercial	33	33	35	35	35	35
Industrial	8	8	8	8	8	8
Mixed Use	26	27	27	29	29	17
Total	1,262	1,254	1,256	1,259	1,256	1,239
<p>The number and types of buildings in West Barnstable are among the indicators of both our community's fire risk and its social-economic activity. The fact that the number and mix of buildings hasn't changed significantly indicates a stable community with low economic growth. The mix of properties, mostly single-family residential homes, indicates a community with low to moderate fire risk.</p>						

West Barnstable Fire District
Motor Vehicle Crash w/ Extrication Performance

Incident	Date	Dispatch Time	Arrival Time	Patient Extrication Time	At Hospital Time	Dispatch to Extrication Time (min)	Arrival to Extrication Time (min)	Dispatch to Hospital Time (min)	Notes
----------	------	---------------	--------------	--------------------------	------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------

2023

2023-684	12/9/23	3:10 AM	3:16 AM	3:42 AM	N/A	32	27	04:41AM	Medflight, Rte 6. Approx. 100 feet from accident. Medflight arrived at the hospital (Boston) at 04:21.
Average						32	27	71	

2022

None									
Average									

2021

2021-106	3/17/21	3:15 PM	3:20 PM	3:45 PM	3:55 PM	30	25	40	Medflight, Cape Cod Airport
2021-305	7/7/21	12:36 AM	12:40 AM	12:48 AM	1:11 AM	13	8	35	
Average						22	17	38	

2020

2020-298	6/9/20	8:26 PM	8:31 PM	8:45 PM	N/A	19	14	N/A	Extrication time estimated. Patient refused transport.
2020-351	6/30/20	12:08 PM	12:14 PM	12:27 PM	1:32 PM	19	13	83	Patient transported to South Shore Hospital.
2020-395	7/22/20	9:13 AM	9:19 AM	9:58 AM	10:15 AM	45	39	62	
Average						28	22	73	

2019

2019-567	11/29/19	9:35 AM	9:38 AM	9:48 AM	10:14 AM	13	10	39	
2019-592	12/18/19	3:29 PM	3:39 PM	3:52 PM	4:07 PM	23	13	39	
Average						18	12	39	

2018

2018-009	1/4/18	1:54 PM	1:55 PM	1:59 PM		5	4	-	Person extricated from car in flooded road. Not transported to hospital.
2018-232	4/17/18	6:42 PM	6:45 PM	6:55 PM	7:27 PM	13	10	45	
2018-391	7/17/18	1:39 PM	1:45 PM	2:16 PM		37	31	-	Patient transported to South Shore Hospital. Arrival time unavailable.
2018-569	10/29/18	11:00 AM	11:05 AM			-	-	-	No record of patient extrication time. Patient was transferred to Medflight at 11:43.
Average						18	15	45	

2017

2017-259	6/16/17	5:46 PM	5:53 PM	6:02 PM	6:22 PM	15	9	35	
2017-388	8/18/17	9:08 PM	9:29 PM	9:38 PM	9:50 PM	30	9	42	Extricated by SFD
2017-433	9/2/17	12:54 PM	1:00 PM	1:16 PM	1:30 PM	22	16	36	
2017-578	11/29/17	3:55 PM	4:00 PM	4:16 PM	4:36 PM	21	16	40	
Average						22	13	38	

2016

2016-043	2/5/16	11:48 AM	11:57 AM	12:02 PM	12:22 PM	14	5	34	
2016-454	9/11/16	12:36 PM	12:40 PM	12:55 PM	1:15 PM	19	15	39	
Average						17	10	37	

Incident	Date	Dispatch Time	Arrival Time	Patient Extrication Time	At Hospital Time	Dispatch to Extrication Time (min)	Arrival to Extrication Time (min)	Dispatch to Hospital Time (min)	Notes
2015									
2015-748	12/23/15	12:57 AM	1:02 AM	1:14 AM		17	12	-	Not transported
2015-647	11/5/15	5:25 PM	5:36 PM			-	-	-	Sandwich call, no data
Average						17	12	0	

2014									
2014-231	5/18/14	5:58 AM	6:08 AM	6:19 AM	6:45 AM	21	11	47	
2014-067	2/4/14	7:04 PM	7:09 PM	7:41 PM	8:00 PM	37	32	56	
Average						29	22	52	

2013									
2013-624	12/12/13	8:17 AM	8:21 AM			-	-	-	Sandwich call, no data
2013-609	11/30/13	8:50 PM	8:53 PM	9:10 PM	9:33 PM	20	17	43	
2013-537	10/4/13	11:20 AM	11:24 AM	11:29 AM	11:55 AM	9	5	35	
2013-483	9/1/13	6:37 AM	6:42 AM	7:30 AM	7:41 AM	52	48	64	
2013-474	8/28/13	10:59 AM	10:59 AM	11:06 AM	11:32 AM	7	7	33	
2013-279	5/13/13	9:02 AM	9:06 AM	9:19 AM	9:35 AM	17	13	33	Extricated by COMM
2013-195	3/24/13	5:02 AM	5:11 AM	5:28 AM	5:47 AM	26	17	45	
2013-056	2/2/13	7:03 PM	7:05 PM	7:17 PM	7:36 PM	13	11	32	
Average						21	17	41	

Comments

The goal of the WBFD is to get trauma patients to the hospital within 60 minutes of their injury. Patients trapped in a crashed car present a challenge to getting them to a trauma center in a timely manner. (Cape Cod Hospital is not trauma center.) For one crash involving extrication in 2023, the time from the 911 call to arrival at the hospital in Boston was 71 minutes, about 11 minutes beyond our goal. As noted in past years, the WBFD is responding to fewer motor vehicle crashes that require patient extrication. We believe this is the result improvements in auto safety engineering.



**West Barnstable Fire District
Ambulance Billing Activity**

2023	Number of Patients	Billing Activity			Annual % Change in Collected	Collection Rates		Average per Patient			Annual % Change in Collected per Patient
		Billed	Allowed	Collected		Billed	Allowed	Billed	Allowed	Collected	
Private Insurance	75	333,455	283,241	232,542		69.7%	82.1%	4,446	3,777	3,101	
Government Insurance	206	906,051	117,276	106,164		11.7%	90.5%	4,398	569	515	
Self-Pay	11	48,459	48,459	4,460		9.2%	9.2%	4,405	4,405	405	
Total	292	1,287,965	448,976	343,166	17.9%	26.6%	76.4%	4,411	1,538	1,175	13.1%

Historical	Number of Patients	Billing Activity			Annual % Change in Collected	Collection Rates		Average per Patient			Annual % Change in Collected per Patient
		Billed	Allowed	Collected		Billed	Allowed	Billed	Allowed	Collected	
2023	292	1,287,965	448,976	343,166	17.9%	26.6%	76.4%	4,411	1,538	1,175	13.1%
2022	280	1,154,715	451,383	291,055	2.2%	25.2%	64.5%	4,124	1,612	1,039	2.2%
2021	280	1,117,849	449,880	284,885	29.9%	25.5%	63.3%	3,992	1,607	1,017	0.2%
2020	216	811,617	366,134	219,287	-12.6%	27.0%	59.9%	3,757	1,695	1,015	6.4%
2019	263	828,952	370,308	250,975	-3.3%	30.3%	67.8%	3,152	1,408	954	-0.7%
2018	270	812,951	333,480	259,427	30.1%	31.9%	77.8%	3,011	1,235	961	28.1%
2017	266	788,389	285,107	199,480	-8.8%	25.3%	70.0%	2,964	1,072	750	-7.5%
2016	270	776,697	319,557	218,804	-9.3%	28.2%	68.5%	2,877	1,184	810	14.9%
2015	342	937,766	369,505	241,284	37.8%	25.7%	65.3%	2,742	1,080	706	10.8%
2014	275	419,554	227,490	175,058	0.5%	41.7%	77.0%	1,526	827	637	14.4%
2013	313	372,638	185,225	174,232	-1.0%	46.8%	94.1%	1,191	592	557	-9.5%
2012	286	397,550	226,694	175,963	-11.0%	44.3%	77.6%	1,390	793	615	6.4%
2011	342	402,634	244,691	197,757	45.9%	49.1%	80.8%	1,177	715	578	12.6%
2010	264	282,457	162,793	135,514	1.8%	48.0%	83.2%	1,070	617	513	4.5%
2009	271	251,920	158,594	133,084	10.6%	52.8%	83.9%	930	585	491	-0.8%
2008	243	212,660	137,685	120,327	-2.4%	56.6%	87.4%	875	567	495	15.6%
2007	288	217,407	150,328	123,330		56.7%	82.0%	755	522	428	

Number of Patients

	Private Insurance			Government Insurance			Self-Pay			Total		
	ALS	BLS	Total	ALS	BLS	Total	ALS	BLS	Total	ALS	BLS	Total
2023	34	41	75	182	24	206	7	4	11	223	69	292
2022	23	39	62	169	21	190	21	7	28	213	67	280
2021	40	28	68	171	17	188	15	9	24	226	54	280
2020	48	19	67	95	32	127	15	7	22	158	58	216
2019	58	23	81	129	31	160	16	6	22	203	60	263
2018	54	19	73	136	35	171	21	5	26	211	59	270
2017	43	19	62	141	42	183	17	4	21	201	65	266
2016	50	20	70	131	43	174	15	11	26	196	74	270
2015	71	33	104	147	64	211	14	13	27	232	110	342
2014			85			154			36			275
2013			187			94			32			313
2012			143			123			20			286
2011			129			178			35			342
2010			123			115			26			264
2009			112			133			26			271
2008			114			110			19			243
2007			144			115			29			288

Comments

Ambulance revenue increased by 17.9% in 2023. The WBFD collected \$343,166 for ambulance trips to the hospital. It's a good sum, but it is only about 21% of the WBFD's operating budget. There are two important factors that hold down the amount of money we can earn by charging for ambulance services.

First, Medicare only pays us about \$515 per patient and seventy percent (70%) of our patients are on Medicare. The aging demographic of West Barnstable means we have twice as many residents over age 65 (and on Medicare) as the typical Massachusetts community. Shifting half our Medicare patients to private insurance would have increased our ambulance revenue by about \$260,000 for 2023.

Second, we are not allowed to bill for ambulance services unless we transport the patient to the hospital. The number of times the WBFD is called for an EMS incident and the patient "refuses" transport, and provides only on-scene first aid, has more than doubled in the past five years. Our call volume may increase, but the growth is mostly for incidents without a trip to the hospital.

**West Barnstable Fire District
Calendar Year 2023 Compensation**

Career Firefighters/ Paramedics	Regular Earnings	Overtime Earnings	Total Earnings	Overtime Hours	Average Weekly Overtime Hours	Average Total Hours per Week
Cottrell, Curtis	69,754	29,434	99,188	490	16.3	58.3
Donovan, Paul	12,574	4,707	17,282	79	11.2	53.2
Jewett, Troy	94,807	81,608	176,415	1,298	25.0	67.0
Moloney, Austin	69,618	89,778	159,396	1,862	40.5	82.5
Murray, William	25,043	7,279	32,322	118	23.6	65.6
Sylvia, Kimberly	95,002	50,728	145,730	787	15.1	57.1
Walsh, Luke	40,549	6,859	47,408	123	4.7	44.7
Total	407,348	270,392	677,741	4,755		

Call/Volunteer Firefighters	Earnings
Albanese, Jill	1,040
Almeida, Pablo	2,540
Boemer, William	2,812
Cikins, Matthew	21,969
Clark, Aidan	3,560
Crosby, Robert	3,149
Crowley, Edward	1,900
Diaz, Ian	5,195
Duchesney, Harrison	189
Eaton, Derren	68
Eveland, Matthew	80
Fancy, Luke	403
Flynn, Robert	810
Friel, Ryan	281
Frye, Steven	4,532
Garafoli, John	6,948
Gruenglas, Jeffrey	8,824
Haislet, Shawn	1,292
Hamel, Jacques	1,700
Heckler, Andrew	1,736
Hemr, Karl	1,556
Henson, Roger	1,200
Higginbotham, Chloe	5,311
Joyce, Caitlyn	1,380
Kelleher, Joshua	815
Lancaster, Christopher	1,061
Lannon, Jennifer	793
Lesiak, Walter	1,800
Llorentty Allyssa	2,442
Malkani, Heather	800
McCormack, Cameron	240
McInnis, Kaden	1,334
Queenan, Joseph	1,200
Riley, Andrew	80
Ryder, Shane	2,000
Salvatore, Daniel	68
Sassone, Kamron	400
Schofield, John	160
Smith, Alexander	446
Stewart, Aaron	2,688
Taddia, Nathaniel	1,040
White, Casey	188
Total Call/Volunteer	96,030

Other	Earnings
Part-Time Firefighters/EMTs	
Brady, Joseph	17,863
Corey, Abigale	16,783
Cowan, Alexander	17,644
Dauley, Christina	3,565
Holzrichter, Morgan	5,654
Longo, Edward	7,803
Qualls, Grant	9,612
Riker, Jacob	16,373
Sylvester, Collin	9,927
Young, Kevin	24,325
Part-Time Maintenance	
Ill, Eric	1,988
Administration	
Maruca, Joseph (Chief)	149,394
Paananen, David (Deputy Chief)	140,159
Scozzarella, Heather (Admin Asst)	23,477
Sonnabend, Jennifer (Records Access Officer)	15,600
District Treasurer	
Pirrone, Raymond	23,284
District Accountant	
Marshall, Charles	21,853
Prudential Committee	
Furbush, Daniel (Clerk)	6,500
Jay, Edward	500
Mitchell, Kate	50
Smith, Edward	500
Total Other	512,854

Summary	Earnings
Career Firefighters/Paramedics	677,741
Call/Volunteer Firefighters	96,030
Part-Time FF/EMTs	129,548
Part-time Maintenance	1,988
Administration, Staff, Elected/Appointed	381,318
Total	1,286,624

West Barnstable Fire District
Training Hours
2023

Actual Hours										
Name	Rank	Full Year	Fire (NFPA 1001)	Hazmat	Driver / Operator Training	Officer Training	Recruit Training	EMS	Other	Total Hours
Command Staff										
Maruca, Joseph	Chief	Yes	135	7	12	12	-	11	2	178
Paananen, David	Deputy	Yes	98	7	12	12	-	10	2	140
Jewett, Troy	Capt.	Yes	91	3	15	12	-	55	2	177
Sylvia, Kimberly	Capt.	Yes	132	6	12	12	-	40	1	203
Moloney, Austin	Lieut.	Yes	408	16	212	12	-	68	2	716
Diaz, Ian	Lieut.	Yes	47	6	5	9	-	-	-	67
Frye, Steve	Lieut.	Yes	26	-	1	2	-	-	1	30
Garofoli, John	Lieut.	Yes	112	6	12	12	-	11	2	154
Cottrell, Curtis	Lieut.	No	34	6	-	2	-	-	-	42
Walsh, Luke	Lieut.	No	400	6	-	-	-	-	-	406
Firefighters/EMTs										
Albanese, Jill		No	67	2	27	-	162	18	-	275
Almeida, Pablo		No	266	3	75	-	-	13	-	357
Boemer, Will		No	110	3	44	-	-	15	-	171
Brady, Joseph		Yes	250	6	40	-	-	18	2	316
Burnham, Kali		No	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Cikins, Matt		Yes	251	10	26	12	-	6	-	304
Clark, Aidan		No	140	3	51	-	-	15	-	208
Cowan, Alexander		Yes	230	6	16	-	-	14	1	267
Crosby, Robert		No	36	3	14	12	-	3	1	69
Daly, Thomas		No	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	32
Dauley, Christina		Yes	40	6	8	-	-	5	1	60
Donovan, Paul		No	29	-	30	-	-	8	-	67
Duchesney, Harrison		No	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Eaton, Derren		No	94	-	20	-	151	8	-	272
Eveland, Matthew		No	60	-	22	-	149	2	-	233
Flynn, Robert		Yes	46	6	14	-	-	1	1	68
Gruenglas, Jeffrey		Yes	120	6	16	-	-	10	-	152
Haislet, Shawn		No	77	-	30	-	187	9	-	303
Hall, Brianna		No	36	-	14	-	143	3	-	196
Hamel, Jack		No	90	3	33	-	-	10	-	135
Heckler, Andrew		Yes	68	6	6	-	-	11	1	92
Hemr, Karl		Yes	96	6	14	-	-	10	1	126
Higginbotham, Chloe		No	19	1	10	-	-	3	-	33
Holzrichter, Morgan		Yes	50	3	14	-	-	7	1	74
Iachetta, Anthony		No	23	-	8	-	104	-	-	135
Joyce, Caitlyn		No	12	-	3	-	-	-	-	15
Lancaster, Chris		Yes	125	6	15	-	-	10	2	157
Lannon, Jennifer		Yes	15	-	3	-	-	4	-	21
Llorentty, Allyssa		Yes	31	6	8	-	-	4	1	50
Longo, Ed		Yes	8	6	5	-	-	-	-	19
MacDonald, Wayne		No	20	2	11	-	114	5	-	151
Malkani, Heather		No	74	-	39	-	164	17	-	293

Name	Rank	Full Year	Fire (NFPA 1001)	Hazmat	Driver / Operator Training	Officer Training	Recruit Training	EMS	Other	Total Hours
McCarthy, Daniel		No	20	-	5	-	-	-	-	24
McCormack, Cameron		No	42	2	20	-	151	7	-	221
Mcinnis, Kaden		Yes	116	6	13	-	-	1	1	137
Nazir, Haider		No	22	-	6	-	88	3	-	119
Nichols, Max		No	12	-	-	-	35	2	-	49
Qualls, Grant		Yes	108	3	12	-	-	7	-	129
Riley, Andrew		No	53	-	17	-	176	11	-	258
Runci, Robert		No	6	-	1	-	76	3	-	86
Ryder, Shane		No	99	4	55	-	195	14	-	366
Salvatore, Daniel		No	41	-	4	-	134	11	-	190
Sassone, Kamron		No	5	-	3	-	-	2	1	11
Sassone, Kourtney		No	31	-	20	-	116	1	-	166
Schofield, John		No	64	-	20	-	169	7	-	260
Stewart, Aaron		Yes	24	3	12	-	-	1	2	41
Sylvester, Collin		No	66	-	12	-	-	4	1	83
Taddia, Nathaniel		No	107	4	17	0	158	8	-	293
White, Azaiya		No	12	-	3	-	71	-	-	85
White, Casey		No	51	6	6	-	-	4	2	68
Young, Kevin		Yes	26	2	13	4	-	3	-	48
Total Actual Training Hours			4,894	184	1,127	113	2,574	504	26	9,421
Average Training Hours for Full Year			102	5	20	4	-	12	1	143



Whelden Memorial Library

"Small but Mighty"

Mission

To serve the village of West Barnstable by providing popular reading materials, reference resources for independent and formal learning, and electronic access to the information network. Our mission is to preserve and promote the heritage of both West Barnstable and Cape Cod. Our library serves in the village as a meeting place and a forum for civic and cultural events.

Statistical Overview

- Holdings: 69,425 (includes downloadable ebooks and audio books)
- Total Circulation: 35,861
- Non-Resident Circulation: 5,667
- Hours Open: 1,480
- Programs: 253

Major Accomplishments

In 2022, we expanded our team with the creation of the Programming Coordinator position. This addition allowed us to enhance our adult and multi-generational programs, form new community partnerships, and introduce a higher level of thoughtful, educational, and entertaining programming to our cherished community members.

This year, we delved into new community partnerships with organizations like Project Connect. This move helped ensure our collections and programs mirrored our commitment to diversity and inclusion. Moreover, we invested in essential accessibility updates to our building, making our space more inclusive for everyone.

Our library thrives on its connections with the community. We continue to partner with valued institutions such as the Barnstable Council on Aging, Meetinghouse Farm, the West Barnstable Fire Department, and the Cape Symphony, among others. We're especially proud of the enormous success of our annual "Touch A Truck" event in collaboration with the West Barnstable Fire Department. Additionally, our Summer Reading Program has been on an exciting upward trend, including the newly introduced Adult Summer Reading Program.

As we look ahead, sustainability is a key focus. We're committed to adopting eco-friendly practices such as using compostable materials and offering upcycled crafts. Our recently established "Little Seed Library" plays a role in promoting sustainability and community involvement.

Our Board of Trustees and the dedicated Friends of Whelden Memorial Library have sponsored critical fundraising events, providing financial support for our annual operations. These efforts include book sales, participation in the annual West Barnstable Village Festival and Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival, Bake Sales, and the bottle and can recycling fundraiser at the Transfer Station.

One of the unique advantages of being a small library is that we get to know our patrons as individuals. This enables us to offer a truly unparalleled customer service experience. Whether you're a regular or just passing through, you're part of our library family.

Our Board of Trustees and Director continue to work on our mission and policies. This effort is focused on shaping an updated strategic plan, ensuring that Whelden Memorial Library remains a cherished institution, guiding our community into a bright future.

For more information: Andrea Figaratto, Director | afigaratto@clamsnet.org | 508-362-2262 | wheldenlibrary.org

2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES of the WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT

APRIL 26, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the West Barnstable Fire District was held at the West Barnstable Community Building, 2377 Meetinghouse Way (Route 149), West Barnstable, Massachusetts on **April 26, 2023**. In accordance with the provisions of the duly posted and published Warrant, the polls were open on April 26, 2023 for the election of District officials from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Serving as ballot counters were Elaine Grace and Lt. Kimberly Sylvia. With a total of 80 ballots cast, the results were as follows:

Position	Votes	Blanks	Write-ins
Moderator / 3 Years Michael Pierce	58	22	
Prudential Committee/3 Years Edward Smith	59	19	2
Water Commission / 3 Years Brian Paradise	40	5	

At 7:00 PM, the meeting was called to order by District Moderator, Kate Mitchell, who determined a quorum was present. The Clerk, Daniel R. Furbush, 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 22, 2023 issue.

A booklet, containing the Annual Reports of 2022 and the Fiscal Year 2024 Warrant was mailed to approximately 1,681 residents of the District on April 12, 2023.

Article 1. Upon motion made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Dhiraj Malkani, 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 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 2. Upon motion made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was found that the motion contained a typographical error regarding the beginning year of the fiscal period. A motion was then made by Dhiraj Malkani and seconded by a registered voter to amend the motion to the corrected starting year of the fiscal period from July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2023. The motion passed unanimously. Edward Smith then made motion to accept the amended article and 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, 2023**, 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 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 3. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Dhiraj Malkani, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$5,274.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2024** for streetlight service, said funds to be under the direction of the fire chief as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 4. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Thirty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$34,488.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2024** for debt service, said funds to be expended under the direction of the treasurer, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 5. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seventy-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$73,842.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2024** for District Salaries for the following officers: Moderator, District Treasurer, District Accountant, District Clerk, Prudential Committee, and Records Access Officer, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 6. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$50,421.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2024** for the ordinary operating expenses of the District, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 7. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate the sum of thirty-thousand dollars (\$30,000) from certified free cash and to raise and appropriate the sum of one million six hundred eighteen thousand four hundred eleven dollars (\$1,618,411) for a total sum of **One Million Six Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$1,678,411.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2024** 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 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 8. Upon motion duly made by Dhiraj Malkani and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred ninety-one thousand eight hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$391,868) and transfer and appropriate from the OPEB Trust Fund the sum of forty seven thousand six hundred ninety-two thousand dollars (\$47,692) for a total sum of **Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$439,560)** for **Fiscal Year 2024** to fund miscellaneous district obligations, said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 9. Upon motion duly made by Dhiraj Malkani and duly seconded by Edward Burke, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2024** to the Reserve Fund, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 10. Upon motion duly made by Dhiraj Malkani and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of ninety-five thousand dollars (\$95,000) to General Stabilization and the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to Ambulance Stabilization for a total sum of **One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2024** to the Stabilization Fund in **Fiscal Year 2024** as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 11. Upon motion duly made by Dhiraj Malkani and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$17,200)** for Fiscal Year 2024 to fund an audit of the West Barnstable Fire District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 12. Upon motion duly made by Dhiraj Malkani and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000)** for Fiscal Year 2024 for Whelden Memorial Library services, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 13. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000)** for Fiscal Year 2024 to the Other Post Employment Retirement (OPEB) Trust Fund, said funds to be expended under the direction of the treasurer, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 14. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$221.00)** to be added to Article Six for Fiscal Year 2024, and **Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$15,240)** to be added to Article Seven for Fiscal Year 2024 to be used for the employment of one additional part-time firefighter, said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 15. Upon motion duly made by Dhiraj Malkani and duly seconded by Edward Smith, it was unanimously voted transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000)** for the construction of a women's bunk room at the fire station, said funds to be expended by the fire chief, , as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 16. Upon motion duly made by Mark Wirtanen and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was voted by a majority present, transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)** to fund professional consulting services, legal services, and testing expenses on behalf of the Water Commissioners, said funds to be expended by the Water Commissioners, - as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

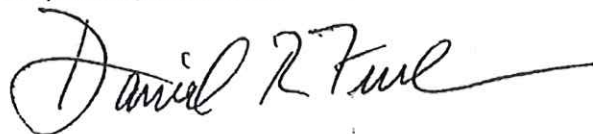
Article 17. Upon motion duly made by Dhiraj Malkani and duly seconded by Edward Smith, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000)** to fund professional consulting services, legal services, and hiring expenses for the hiring of a deputy fire chief, said funds to be expended by the fire chief, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 18. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Dhiraj Malkani, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Twenty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$23,000)** for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the fire department, said funds to be expended by the fire chief, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

Article 19. Upon motion duly made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by a registered voter, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000)** to be added to Article Seven for Fiscal Year 2024 to be used for data management and cybersecurity, said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2022**, distributed to the voters.

There being no further business before the meeting, the **2023 Annual West Barnstable Fire District Meeting** was adjourned sine die at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Furbush", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel R. Furbush, District Clerk

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

December 31, 2023

Fire Chief Joe Maruca

Deputy Fire Chief Dave Paananen

Call/ Volunteer Deputy Fire Chief Vacant
--

Non-Group Firefighters	
	Dayshift
Career EMT	Vacant
EMT	Edward Longo*
EMT	Kevin Young*
EMT	Heather Malkani

GROUP 1	
Medic	Paul Donovan
FR	Lt. John Garofoli
EMT	Joseph Brady*
EMT	Morgan Holzrichter
EMT	Jeffrey Gruenglas
EMT	Karl Hemr
EMT	Jennifer Lannon
FR	Robert Flynn
EMT	Jill Albanese
EMT	Cameron McCormack

GROUP 2	
Medic	Capt. Kimberly Sylvia
FR	Lt. Matthew Cikins
EMT	Allyssa Llorentty
EMT	Kamron Sassone
EMT	Matt Eveland
FR	Haider Nazir
EMT	Christina Dauley
EMT	William Boemer (Summer)

GROUP 3	
Medic	Lt. Austin Moloney
FR	Alexander Cowan
FR	Aaron Stewart
FR	Kaden McInnis
FR	Derren Eaton
EMT	Shane Ryder
EMT	Nathaniel Taddia
FR	Aidan Clark (Summer)

GROUP 4	
Medic	Capt. Troy Jewett
EMT	Lt. Ian Diaz
EMT	Lt. Steve Frye
EMT	Christopher Lancaster
FR	Grant Qualls
EMT	Shawn Haislet
EMT	Jack Schofield
EMT	Andrew Riley
EMT	Pablo Almeida (Summer)

Recruit/Interns	
FR	Thomas Daly
FR	Kali Burnham
FR	Daniel McCarthy

Chart Legend	
EMS Designations	Officer Designations
Medic= Paramedic	Capt.= Captain
EMT= Emergency Medical Technician	Lt.= Lieutenant
FR= First Responder	* Engineer= Driver/Operator of all Department Trucks All Officers are also Engineers.

West Barnstable Village Demographics & Data

Demographics from US Census 2020 (<https://data.census.gov>)

Population:	3222 (02668 zip code/2020 US Census)
Population Density:	199 people per square mile
Median Age	52.7 (32% of residents are retirees)
Occupied Housing Units:	1267 (88% Owner Occupied)
Average People Per House	3.68
Year-Round Homes	83%
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 3
Number of Street Lights:	91
Median Household Income:	\$108,651 (www.incomebyzipcode.com)
Average Household income:	\$129,464 (www.incomebyzipcode.com)
Per Capital Income:	\$51,622 (www.incomebyzipcode.com)
Average Home Value:	\$733,071 (Zillow)

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 westbarnstablefiredistrict.com.



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



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PERMIT NO. 21
WEST BARNSTABLE, MA 02668

POSTAL PATRON
WEST BARNSTABLE, MA 02668

Learn to Use a Fire Extinguisher

The WBFD can teach you to use a fire extinguisher using our live fire training prop
Call us to schedule

Learn CPR/AED

Call the fire station at 362-3241 to schedule a CPR Class

Fire District Annual Meeting – Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – 7PM
West Barnstable Community Building – Election from 5PM to 7PM