

# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF TOWN DEPARTMENT AND ALL TOWN BOARDS  
As Required by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009 which amends MGL Chapter 30 A

**NAME OF PUBLIC BODY – PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT**

**DATE OF MEETING: ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING and PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 29, 2026**

**TIME: 5:00 - 9:30 P.M.**

**PLACE: West Barnstable Community Building**

**2377 Meetinghouse Way (Rte.149), West Barnstable, MA 02668**

## **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. **DISTRICT ELECTION VOTING – 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.**
  - a. Moderator and Clerk open polls at 5:00 P.M. at West Barnstable Community Building. Polls close at 7:00 P.M.
2. **PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 6:30 P.M.**
  - a. Review FY 2027 Warrant Motions prior to Annual District Meeting
3. **ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING – Moderator opens meeting at 7:00 P.M.**

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The list of matters, are those reasonably anticipated by the president/chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be introduced for discussion to the extent permitted by law. It is possible that if it so votes, the sub-committee may go into executive session.

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PERSONS INTERESTED ARE ADVISED THAT IN THE EVENT THAT ANY MATTER TAKEN UP AT THE MEETING THAT REMAINS UNFINISHED AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, IT MAY BE PUT OFF TO A CONTINUED SESSION OF THIS MEETING WITH PROPER POSTING.

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For your information the section of the M.G.L. that pertains to postings of meetings is as follows: Except in an emergency, in addition to any notice otherwise required by law, a public body shall post notice of every meeting at least 48 hours prior to such meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. In an emergency, a public body shall post notice as soon as reasonably possible prior to such meeting. Notice shall be printed in a legible, easily understandable format and shall contain: the date, time and place of such meeting and a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. For meetings of a local public body, notice shall be filed with the municipal clerk and posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal building in which the clerk's office is located.

## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT

**APRIL 29, 2026**

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 29, 2026**. In accordance with the provisions of the duly posted and published Warrant, the polls were open on April 29, 2026 for the election of District officials from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Serving as duly sworn tellers/ballot counters were Elaine Grace and Captain Paul Donahue. With a total of 65 ballots cast, the results were as follows:

| Position                                    | Votes     | Write-ins | Blanks   | Errored Ballots |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| Prudential Committee/3 Years Brian Paradise | 24        | 24        |          |                 |
| Sara Eveland                                | 23        | 23        |          |                 |
| Jim Tabor                                   | 2         | 2         |          |                 |
| Ryan Coholan                                | 1         | 1         |          |                 |
| Ema Lee Pierce                              | 1         | 1         |          |                 |
| <b>Totals Prudential Committee</b>          | <b>51</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>6</b> |                 |
| Water Commission / 3 Years Lisa Hendrickson | 28        | 28        |          |                 |
| Sara Eveland                                | 3         | 2         |          |                 |
| Brian Paradise                              | 2         | 1         |          |                 |
| Jim Tabor                                   | 2         | 1         |          |                 |
| Ryan Coholan                                | 2         | 2         |          |                 |
| Matthew Eveland                             | 2         | 2         |          |                 |
| Andy Riley                                  | 1         | 1         |          |                 |
| Dhiraj Malkani                              | 1         | 1         |          |                 |
| <b>Totals Water Commission</b>              | <b>41</b> | <b>41</b> |          |                 |
| <b>Overall Vote Total</b>                   | <b>65</b> |           | <b>6</b> | <b>8</b>        |

Elected were Mr. Paradise was elected to the Prudential Committee and Ms. Hendrickson to the Water Commission.

At 7:00 PM, the Annual District Meeting was called to order by District Moderator Michael Pierce, who determined a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

The District Clerk, Daniel 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 17, 2026 issue.

A booklet, containing the Annual Reports of 2025 and the Fiscal Year 2027 Warrant was mailed to approximately 1,475 residents of the District on April 14, 2026.

Articles were presented by Prudential Committee Members Edward Smith (Chair), Chris Maki, and Dan Dewey

**Article 1.** Upon a motion made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Dan Dewey, it was unanimously voted to accept the reports of the Officers, including the minutes of the previous Annual District Meeting, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 2.** Upon a motion made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Chief Paananen, 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, 2026**, 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 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 3.** Upon a motion made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Chief Paananen, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Thousand two Hundred Dollars (\$6,200.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2027** for Streetlight Service, said funds to be under the direction of the fire chief, or take any other action relative thereto, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 4.** Upon a motion made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Dan Dewey, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Seventy-Four Thousand Dollars (\$74,000.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2027** for debt service, said funds to be expended under the direction of the treasurer, or to take any other action relative thereto, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 5.** Upon a motion made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Dan Dewey, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars (\$68,647.00)** for **Fiscal Year 2027** 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, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 6.** Upon a motion made by Edward Smith and duly seconded by Dan Dewey, a West Barnstable resident, Debra DeJonker-Berry, asked the Committee to explain what it meant by “raise and appropriate.” It was explained to her by Treasurer Pirrone. He also explained that the article had been reconfigured to transfer twenty thousand dollars from the General Stabilization Fund instead of the five thousand initially proposed, thus reducing the amount needed to be raised from \$94,090 to \$74,090. Resident Mark Nelson asked why the increase in district expenses and Mr. Pirrone indicated that it was to address the cost for a bond counsel, required for borrowing under Article 14. With Article 14’s indefinite postponement, that cost is no longer necessary. Mr. Sabatt offered that an article amount can be reduced without amendment but not increased. The motion was moved and it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate the sum of **Ninety-Nine Thousand Ninety Dollars (\$99,090.00) for Fiscal Year 2027** 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, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 7.** Upon a motion made by Chris Maki and duly seconded by Dan Dewey, a West Barnstable resident, Deborah Burke, asked for an for explanation of the oversight that insures the funding that is appropriated is used for the intended purpose. Mr. Maki explained the review and approval process for all expenditures and the monthly reporting provided by the Treasurer. The motion was moved to a vote by Moderator Pierce and with a more than two thirds majority approval, it was voted to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Three Million Fifty-Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$3,054,135.00) for Fiscal Year 2027** 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, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025** and distributed to the voters.

**Article 8.** Upon a motion made by Chris Maki and duly seconded by Edward Smith, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Six Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$671,344.00) for Fiscal Year 2027** 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, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025** and distributed to the voters.

**Article 9.** Upon a motion made by Chris Maki and duly seconded by Chief Paananen it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for Fiscal Year 2027** to the Reserve Fund, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 10.** Upon a motion made by Chris Maki and duly seconded by Chief Paananen, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds the sum of **Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) for the General Stabilization Fund and transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the Ambulance Stabilization Fund for a total sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00))** or to take any other action relative thereto, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 11.** Upon a motion made by Chris Maki and duly seconded by Edward Smith, it was unanimously voted 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 2027** to fund an audit of the West Barnstable Fire District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Prudential Committee, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 12.** Upon a motion made by Dan Dewey and duly seconded by Edward Smith, a West Barnstable resident, Kris Clark, spoke of what she said is a lack of trust and transparency in the management and operation of the Whelden Memorial Library. She provided data that she said was taken from ProPublica which she said reflected the filings of the library over the last ten years. She indicated that taxpayers have no say in the operation if the library is funded through the Prudential Committee, saying it was taxation without representation. She urged the assembled residents to not support the approval of the article. Resident Bonnie Lingenfeldt, responded that she is the new president of the Board of Trustees of the library and that there are also three new board members who are dedicated in their support for the library. She agreed that continued similar financial performance is not sustainable and that already the board has made improvements in turning it around and cited a few examples of how they are doing it.

Resident Meg Mahoney then asked Ms. Clark what she has done in the last twelve months to improve the financial condition of the library and the Moderator then indicated that it was improper discussion. Mr. Dewey assured the residents that the library is a concern and asked residents to provide feedback to the Prudential to remain informed of the issue. Resident Brian Paradise said the library is a resource for all residents but there should be accountability for the taxation. Resident Andrea Figaratto, also the library's Director, said the library is subject to three layers of oversight and the annual audit is public. Resident Lisa Hendrickson asked Ms. Figaratto if the trustee meetings are public and was told they are with all parties welcome to attend.

The Moderator then moved the article to a vote. The motion to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for Fiscal Year 2027** 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, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters was passed with majority approval.

**Article 13.** Upon motion made by Dan Dewey and duly seconded by Chris Maki, it was unanimously voted to transfer and appropriate from certified free cash the sum of **Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) for Fiscal Year 2027** 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 as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters.

**Article 14.** . Upon a motion made by Dan Dewey and duly seconded by Edward Smith, it was unanimously approved to withdraw Article 14 indefinitely.

**Article 15.** Upon a motion made by Dan Dewey and duly seconded by Edward Smith, resident Dhiraj Malkani asked if there was to be any funding for the Water Commissioners in 2027. Water Commission Mark Nelson responded that there is no new funding and that the appropriations from prior fiscal years do not return to the free cash but are retained as special article funds. He said there is about twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000) available to the Water Commission for continued legal or consulting work.

Resident Hilary Sandler asked Chief Paananen Article 15 is intended to be funded up to the one hundred thousand dollar limit and the Chief indicated it is but not raised and appropriated. It is funded from free cash. He cited the estimates the department have received for a replacement vehicle are in the mid-ninety-thousand dollar range, with the cost for necessary special equipment on the vehicle increasing the cost to those estimates. When asked how long he thought the vehicle would last, he said he had no idea but that the department maintains their vehicle with longevity in mind.

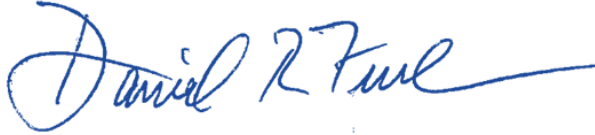
The Moderator then moved the article to a vote. The motion to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of **One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for Fiscal Year 2027** for the purpose of replacing a 2004 pickup truck and authorizing the disposal of a 2004 pickup truck in a manner that is in the best interest of the district. Said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief or to take any other action relative thereto, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters was unanimously approved.

**Article 16.** Upon a motion made by Chris Maki and duly seconded by Edward Smith, it was unanimously approved to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash, the sum of **Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) for the Fiscal Year 2027** for the purpose of replacing a cardiac monitor. Said funds to be expended under the direction of the fire chief or to take any other action relative thereto, as printed in the **Annual Reports of 2025**, distributed to the voters

Chief Paananen then recognized Chairman Edward Smith for his thirty years as a member of the Prudential Committee and presented him with a plaque recognizing his service. All in attendance rose and gave Mr. Smith a standing ovation in appreciation of his contributions.

There being no further business before the meeting, the **2026 Annual West Barnstable Fire District Meeting** was adjourned sine die at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daniel R. Furbush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel R. Furbush, District Clerk

**DOCUMENTS USED THIS SESSION:**

Annual Meeting Warrant

Motions for Articles on Warrant

Annual Reports Booklet of 2025