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: **February 25, 2026**
TIME: **4:00 P.M.**
PLACE: **West Barnstable Fire Station – Training Room**
2160 Meetinghouse Way (Rte.149), West Barnstable, MA 02668

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Review and Approve FY 2026 Fire District Budget
2. Review & Approve Warrant for Annual Fire District Meeting
3. Such Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

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ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE: **ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE:** This meeting of the WBFD Prudential Committee will not be conducted electronically for remote participation. If you wish to participate, please attend the meeting in person at the address above. For more information, please email District Clerk, Dan Furbush at DFURBUSH@WBFDEMS.ORG

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 broughtup for discussion to the extent permitted by law. It is possible that if it so votes, the sub-committee may go into executive session.

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.

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.

WEST BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 25, 2026

PRESENT: Chief Dave Paanenen; Deputy Chief Brian Morrison; Prudential Committee Members Edward Smith (Chair), Daniel Dewey, and Chris Maki; District Clerk Dan Furbush; District Treasurer Ray Pirrone

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Smith called the meeting of the Prudential Committee to order at 4:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

REVIEW AND APPROVE FY 2026 FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET AND WARRANT:

Chief Paananen advised the Committee that the budget was nearly finalized, awaiting just any last minute changes that might be necessary due to changes from the meeting's discussions or from the Treasurer's advice on any Articles. He provided some insight into the final budget changes he made citing increases in healthcare costs and OPEB assessments and told the Committee that the simplest thing to do is to just review the Warrant Articles and he would cite the corresponding budget item(s) and funding source in order to facilitate approval of individual Articles. The Committee agreed.

The Chief indicated that Article One had no financial implications and that Article Two was an authorization for the Treasurer to borrow on behalf of the District.

Mr. Dewey motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, the Article One (1) was unanimously approved.

Mr. Dewey motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, the Article Two (2) was unanimously approved.

Article Three (3) raises funds for the management of streetlights in the district.

Mr. Dewey motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, the Article Three (3) was unanimously approved.

Article Four (4) relates to debt service and is funded by free cash. **Mr. Dewey motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, the Article Four (4) was unanimously approved.**

Article Five (5) is salaries for District appointees and elected officials and is funded by appropriation. **Mr. Smith motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, the Article Five (5) was unanimously approved.**

Article Six (6) addresses operating expenses for the District. It is funded by free cash from the Stabilization Fund and appropriation. **Mr. Maki motioned, Mr. Smith seconded and in a roll call vote, the Article Six (6) was unanimously approved.**

Article Seven (7) addresses funding for the operation of the Fire Department. Chief Paananen cited cost increases in payroll due to the new collective bargaining agreement with the union, increased station and apparatus maintenance which was underfunded in the last budget and ever-increasing costs for EMS supplies as major contributors to the increase year over year. The Chief also said that funding the article is a combination of free cash utilization and appropriation. **Mr. Maki motioned, Mr. Smith seconded and in a roll call vote, Article Seven (7) was unanimously approved.**

Article Eight (8) addresses the funding of district obligations. Mr. Dewey asked about the increase from FY2025 to FY 2027 and Chief Paananen cited costs for OPEB Trust and Medex costs as among the reasons for the increase. Funding the article is a combination of free cash utilization and appropriation. **Mr. Dewey motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, the Article Eight (8) was unanimously approved.**

Article Nine (9) is funding for a contribution to the Reserve Fund. It is funded by free cash. **Mr. Dewey motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, the Article Nine (9) was unanimously approved.**

Article Ten (10) is funding for contributions to the General Stabilization Fund and the Ambulance Stabilization Fund. It is funded by a combination of free cash and appropriation. After discussion regarding the amounts to each stabilization fund, the amounts were changed in order to reduce the total amount of the Article by One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000) and apply that amount from free cash to Article Fourteen (14). **Mr. Dewey motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, Article Ten (10) was unanimously approved.**

Article Eleven (11) is funding for the annual financial audit. It is funded by free cash. **Mr. Smith motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, Article Eleven (11) was unanimously approved.**

Article Twelve (12) is an appropriation for the Whelden Memorial Library. It is funded by free cash. **Mr. Maki motioned, Mr. Smith seconded and in a roll call vote, Article Twelve (12) was unanimously approved.**

Article Thirteen (13) is funding for a contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund and is funded by free cash. **Mr. Maki motioned, Mr. Smith seconded and in a roll call vote, Article Thirteen (13) was unanimously approved.**

Article Fourteen (14) is funding for the schematic design, design development, construction documents, and associated costs for the fire station renovation including administrative, regulatory, and mandated costs. It is funded by free cash and borrowing. There was significant discussion among the members and Chief Paananen regarding the cost estimates and other concerns about the building requirements and timing for the construction. **Mr. Smith motioned, Mr. Dewey seconded and in a roll call vote, Article Fourteen (14) was unanimously approved.**

Article Fifteen (15) is funding for the replacement of a department vehicle and disposal of the replaced vehicle. It is funded from free cash. **Mr. Smith motioned, Mr. Dewey seconded and in a roll call vote, Article Fifteen (15) was unanimously approved.**

Article Sixteen (16) is for the replacement of a cardiac monitor on the ambulance. **Mr. Dewey motioned, Mr. Maki seconded and in a roll call vote, Article Sixteen (16) was unanimously approved.**

There being no further business to conduct, **Mr. Maki motioned, Mr. Smith seconded and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved in a roll call vote.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM.

DOCUMENTS USED IN THIS SESSION:

Public Sign-in Sheet

Meeting Notice and Agenda

Annual District Meeting Warrant

FY2027 Budget

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel R. Furbush, District Clerk