

The Prudential Committee held an FY26 Budget Meeting in the Fire District Office, on the above date, with the following officers present: Chairman Thomas A. Satko, Vice-Chairman Richard G. Kleiner, Member Michael J. Lahey, and Clerk & Acting Treasurer Allen J. Mendel. Chief Engineer John M. Pansecchi was absent.

Also present: Superintendent John C. Barrett, Bookkeeper/Office Manager Kathleen A. Fletcher, and Assistant Clerk & Treasurer Victoria A. Lassonde.

Chairman Satko called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. in the Fire District Office.

NEW BUSINESS

FY26 BUDGET

Bookkeeper Statement

Bookkeeper/Office Manager Fletcher: stated that the General and Enterprise Funds are in deficit. The Committee will need to make cuts from the budget and/or raise rates.

Vice-Chairman Kleiner: felt that information regarding Longevity and the request for a new Water Department Truck should have been provided prior to the meeting.

Bookkeeper/Office Manager Fletcher: noted that departments come to the Budget Meeting with their "wish lists," and these topics can be discussed at the Budget Meeting or, if further information or discussion is required, those subjects can be discussed at subsequent Budget Meetings.

FY26 COLA

Chairman Satko: stated that the Committee had not yet discussed the COLA for FY26.

Bookkeeper/Office Manager Fletcher: noted that this subject was often discussed prior, but it has been more productive to discuss at the Budget Meeting.

Vice-Chairman Kleiner made a motion to provide a 3% Cost of Living Allowance for FY26, Member Lahey seconded, Unanimous – Passed.

GENERAL FUND - Administration

Prudential Committee Salaries

General Fund: \$865.20

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Clerk & Treasurer's Salary

General Fund: \$650.23

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Bookkeeper Salary or Appointed Clerk & Treasurer

General Fund: \$\$27,890.27

Assistant Clerk & Treasurer Lassonde: suggested the addition of "or Appointed Clerk & Treasurer" in order to include the funding of *either* position, dependent on the outcome of the *Elected to Appointed* vote at the Annual Meeting.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Fire District Office Wages

General Fund: \$38,445.75

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Longevity

General Fund: \$450.00 (Held)

Superintendent Barrett: suggested long-term employees who have attained their maximum step should be granted Longevity payments.

Several factors and scenarios were discussed. The addition of steps and continuing to base increases on evaluations and step increases, was also suggested.

Chairman Satko: made the point that salary employees do not receive Longevity payments, just hourly employees. Further consideration and discussion are required.

Vice-Chairman Kleiner: said he would be more in favor of adding steps.

Held pending further review.

Fire District Office Wages – Overtime
General Fund: \$600.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Legal Services and Claims
General Fund: \$3,000.00

Member Lahey: asked who makes the determination of how much is budgeted for legal services.

Bookkeeper/Office Manager Fletcher: explained that amount is determined by what the District expects to spend in the upcoming fiscal year.

Vice-Chairman Kleiner: noted that the expected expense in FY26 is reduced because the lawsuit has been resolved.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Audit of District Accounts
General Fund: \$8,490.00

Bookkeeper/Office Manager Fletcher: explained this is the second year cost for the three-year contract agreement with Adelson & Company.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Office Expense
General Fund: \$15,946.38

Chairman Satko: questioned the increase in the Equipment/Computer Contracts line item, asking whether the increase is for equipment or contracts.

Bookkeeper/Office Manager Fletcher: explained the increase is due to contracts. Prices are increasing. Entre provides a technician who visits once a month. Per the contract, if issues are addressed during his monthly visit, the District does not incur additional charges.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Building Expense

General Fund: \$10,927.00

Chairman Satko: noted no increase in Gas expense and an increase in Electric expense.

Assistant Clerk & Treasurer Lassonde: explained that the substantial bank of solar credits has been used up. We are now seeing the full cost we would have to pay. We continue to receive a good amount of solar credits.

Bookkeeper/Office Manager Fletcher: contacted Berkshire Gas before estimating. The current budgeted amount should be adequate to cover.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Communications

General Fund: \$2,305.16

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Actuarial Valuation Services

General Fund: \$675.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Employee Benefits/Group Insurance – Page 1& 2

General Fund: \$18,468.51

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Employee Benefits/Unemployment Compensation Insurance
General Fund: \$300.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Employee Benefits/Contributory Retirement System
General Fund: \$18,455.19

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Insurance
General Fund: \$35,774.47

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

ENTERPRISE FUND - Administration

Reasons already discussed in the General Fund.

Prudential Committee Salaries
Enterprise Fund: \$2,018.79

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Clerk & Treasurer's Salary
Enterprise Fund: \$1,517.19

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Bookkeeper's Salary or Appointed Clerk & Treasurer
Enterprise Fund: \$65,077.28

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Fire District Office Wages (Held)
Enterprise Fund: \$89,706.73

Held pending review.

Fire District Office Wages – Longevity (Held)
Enterprise Fund: \$4,050.00

Held pending review.

Fire District Office Wages – Overtime
Enterprise Fund: \$1,400.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Legal Services and Claims
Enterprise Fund: \$7,000.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Audit of District Accounts
General Fund: \$19,810.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Office Expense

Enterprise Fund: \$37,208.18

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Building Expense

Enterprise Fund: \$25,623.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Communications

Enterprise Fund: \$5,378.71

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Actuarial Valuation Services

Enterprise Fund: \$1,575.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Employee Benefits/Group Insurance – Page 1& 2

Enterprise Fund: \$139,145.51

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Employee Benefits/Unemployment Compensation Insurance

General Fund: \$600.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Employee Benefits/Contributory Retirement System

Enterprise Fund: \$145,590.81

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Insurance

Enterprise Fund: \$42,271.37

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Superintendent's Salary (Held)

Enterprise Fund: \$105,348.92

Held pending review.

Assistant Superintendent's Wages

Enterprise Fund: \$83,514.48

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

ENTERPRISE FUND – Water Department

Superintendent's Expense

Enterprise Fund: \$1,700.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Water Department Wages – Page 1 & 2
Enterprise Fund: \$187,038.36

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Water Department Wages – Overtime
Enterprise Fund: \$40,888.96

Chairman Satko: noted the decrease in overtime hours due to the reduction in pump checks, and the increase in on-call hours for operators who cover on holidays. Overall, there is a decrease.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Water System Expense
Enterprise Fund: \$168,600.00

Superintendent Barrett: explained that the increase in Parts, Tools, Supplies & Repairs is due to the increased cost across the board. Overspent in FY25. Water Sample Testing is also increased. He noted that he did not raise Hydrants & Accessories but will reduce the number of hydrant replacements due to the cost. Decrease in DEP Annual Water Usage charge due to losing less water with leak detection. Cross Connection Control reports are now being done in-house. Now under 10% unaccounted water.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Pumping Station Expense
Enterprise Fund: \$137,500.00

Superintendent Barrett: explained the slight increase in Propane/Natural Gas line item is due to the increase in costs.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Road Machinery Expense

Enterprise Fund: \$23,200.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Water Department Clothing Allowance

Enterprise Fund: \$4,150.00

Superintendent Barrett: noted the increase is based on the cost paid by the highway department.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Engineering Service

Enterprise Fund: \$10,000.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Maturing Debt

Enterprise Fund: \$277,693.09

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Interest and Fees on Maturing Debt

Enterprise Fund: \$61,409.71

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the Enterprise Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 13, 2025.

Prudential Committee - Budget Meeting

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March 5, 2025

**Vice-Chairman Kleiner made a motion to adjourn, Member Lahey seconded,
Unanimous - Passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kristen G. Rosenau - Administrative Assistant


Thomas A. Satko - Chairman


Richard G. Kleiner - Vice-Chairman


Michael J. Lahey - Member

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE