

Prudential Committee Budget Meeting
March 4, 2026

The Prudential Committee held an FY27 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 Chief Engineer John M. Pansecchi. Clerk & Acting Treasurer Allen J. Mendel was absent.

Also present: Superintendent John C. Barrett, Bookkeeper Victoria A. Lassonde, Assistant Clerk & Treasurer Lynne E. Alexander, First Assistant Engineer David J Lennon, and Berkshire Eagle reporter Jane Kaufman.

Chairman Satko called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Fire District Office; it was noted that the meeting was being recorded and that the Berkshire Eagle reporter was also recording.

New Business

FY27 Budget

Bookkeeper Statement regarding General/Enterprise Fund Indirect Cost Split

Bookkeeper Victoria A. Lassonde: stated that the current 30/70 split for General and Enterprise Funds (respectively) has shifted to be more of a 40/60 split. The reason for the shift includes the reduced space in the building for the Water Department due to the shoring supports and the increase in administrative tasks due to the hiring of Fire Department personnel as well as current tasks that relate to both the Water and Fire that weren't accounted that way before.

Vice-Chairman Richard G. Kleiner: stated that the current 30/70 split for General and Enterprise Funds was established years ago and agreed with change to 40/60.

Member Lahey made a motion to change the split between the General Fund and Enterprise Fund Expenses from a 30/70% to a 40/60% split respectively, moving forward, Vice-Chairman Kleiner seconded, Unanimous – Passed.

FY27 COLA

Chairman Satko: Social Security increase is 2.8% and the Town of Adams is 2%.

Bookkeeper Victoria Lassonde: with the 3% COLA the overall increase would be only \$12,000 due to new positions being hired in at a lower step.

Member Lahey made a motion to provide a 3% Cost of Living Allowance for FY27, Vice-Chairman Kleiner seconded, Unanimous – Passed.

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General Fund - Administration (40%)

Bookkeeper Lassonde: with the current proposed budget and change in split, the General Fund tax rate would be \$1.19/\$1,000 an increase of \$0.32 (36%) based on the current valuation from the Town. She confirmed that we are at \$0.87/\$1,000 now. The increase per average household would be \$78.02/year.

Chief Engineer John M. Pansecchi: when the updated valuations come out.

Bookkeeper Lassonde: not until the fall.

Prudential Committee Salaries

General Fund: \$2,700.00 (Held)

Chairman Satko: the increase that was suggested at the workshop seems a bit high and suggested the following:

Chairman	\$2,000/year
Vice Chairman	\$1,500/year
Member	\$1,000/year

The article was held for both the General and Enterprise fund and Bookkeeper Victoria Lassonde will make changes to both the General and Enterprise funds for the next meeting.

Clerk & Treasurer's Salary

General Fund: \$894.00

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 27, 2026.

Bookkeeper or Appointed Clerk & Treasurer's Salary

General Fund: \$36,456.99

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Fire District Office Wages

General Fund: \$49,739.28

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 27, 2026.

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Fire District Office Wages – Overtime

General Fund: \$800.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: level funded just a different split.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Legal Services and Claims

General Fund: \$4,000.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: level funded just a different split.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Audit of District Accounts

General Fund: \$11,640.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: increase based on contracted services.

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 27, 2026.

Office Expense

General Fund: \$19,502.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: increase was mainly due to the new website for ADA compliance and overall expenses have risen as well. We also extended our voting hours.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Building Expense

General Fund: \$15,400.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: increase was mainly due to being under budget in the gas category and the proposed gas hike. Even though the rate hike in gas isn't official yet

we do need to account for the rate hike just in case.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Communications

General Fund: \$3,074.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: level funded just a different split.

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 27, 2026.

Actuarial Valuation Services

General Fund: \$900.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: level funded just a different split.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Employee Benefits/Group Insurance – Page 1 & 2

General Fund: \$26,459.69

Bookkeeper Lassonde: these rates are set costs; there is an 8.75% increase to employees and 16% increase for retirees for health insurance.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Employee Benefits/Unemployment Compensation Insurance

General Fund: \$520.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: increase due to overall increase in employee compensation.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Employee Benefits/Contributory Retirement System
General Fund: \$29,098.80

Bookkeeper Lassonde: amount is set per the Adams Retirement System.

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 27, 2026.

Insurance
General Fund: \$41,190.00

Bookkeeper Lassonde: Group Pool amount needed to be readjusted to fit with the split and the Worker's Compensation was moved entirely to the Enterprise Fund.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Enterprise Fund – Administration (60%)

Reasons already discussed in the General Fund.

Prudential Committee Salaries
Enterprise Fund: \$4,050.00 (Held)

Clerk & Treasurer's Salary
Enterprise Fund: \$1,341.00

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 27, 2026.

Bookkeeper or Appointed Clerk & Treasurer's Salary
Enterprise Fund: \$54,685.49

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 27, 2026.

Fire District Office Wages

Enterprise Fund: \$74,608.40

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 27, 2026.

Fire District Office Wages – Overtime

Enterprise Fund: \$1,200.00

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 27, 2026.

Legal Services and Claims

Enterprise Fund: \$6,000.00

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 27, 2026.

Audit of District Accounts

General Fund: \$17,460.00

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 27, 2026.

Office Expense

Enterprise Fund: \$38,753.00

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 27, 2026.

Building Expense

Enterprise Fund: \$23,100.00

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 27, 2026.

Communications

Enterprise Fund: \$4,611.00

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 27, 2026.

Actuarial Valuation Services

Enterprise Fund: \$1,350.00

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 27, 2026.

Employee Benefits/Group Insurance – Page 1 & 2

Enterprise Fund: \$154,196.18

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 27, 2026.

Employee Benefits/Unemployment Compensation Insurance

General Fund: \$780.00

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 27, 2026.

Employee Benefits/Contributory Retirement System

Enterprise Fund: \$164,893.20

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 27, 2026.

Insurance

Enterprise Fund: \$41,760.00

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 27, 2026.

**General Fund – Fire Department
Chief Engineer's Salary
General Fund: \$40,000.00**

Chairman Satko: asked if the increase of \$10,000 was too high due to fact that the position is still elected and anyone can run for the position even if he/she is not qualified.

Vice-Chairman Kleiner and Member Lahey: both stated the person in that position will have to put in a lot of hours and they both agree the salary should be \$40,000.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, it was voted (2-1) 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 27, 2026 (Ayes - Kleiner & Lahey, Nay - Satko).

**Chief Engineer's Expense
General Fund: \$2,600.00**

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

**Fire Department Expense
General Fund: \$76,850.00**

Chief Engineer: stated there are required changes to the firefighter gear starting in January 2027 and we need to start to update the current gear.

First Engineer David J. Lennon: stated the grants help but then that puts us in a position to update everything all at once when we need to replace them so we should plan to update some each year.

Chairman Satko: asked if we had insurance on the radios and pagers.

Chief Engineer: stated he thought there was insurance on the radios but not the pagers and asked Bookkeeper Lassonde to please check that out.

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Certifications and Inspections

General Fund: \$22,000.00

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Fire Alarm System Expense

General Fund: \$400.00

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Firefighter Compensation

General Fund: \$186,250.00 (Held)

Chief Engineer: stated currently we use a point system to pay the firefighters a stipend and suggests going to an hourly rate that would be paid when a firefighter responds to a call or shows up for training. The Chief is not eligible for this compensation.

Chief Engineer: stated the current driver coverage (on call) runs two shifts 6:00pm to 12:00 am and 12:00 am to 6:00 am.

Chairman Satko: stated the idea of a full-time firefighter do not go well with the public and is worried the article would be shut down if that was in there.

Bookkeeper Lassonde: recommend separating the item into its own warrant article.

First Engineer Lennon: asked for more support from the Committee if we do a separate warrant. He explained this is an ongoing issue that isn't going to get better and we need more than a recommendation and asked the Committee to be more vocal. This article is on hold. Bookkeeper Lassonde will create a separate warrant for \$57,200 for the full-time firefighter.

Grants

General Fund: \$12,000.00

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Capital Expense

General Fund: \$48,664.25

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Hydrants

General Fund: \$10,500.00

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Maturing Debt

General Fund: \$50,000.00

Upon motion made by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, seconded by Member Lahey, it was unanimously voted to recommend the above amount appropriated from the General Fund Budget for approval by Fire District voters at the Annual Fire District Meeting to be held on May 27, 2026.

Interest on Maturing Debt

General Fund: \$21,000.00

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Employee Benefits

General Fund: \$50,303.36 (Held)

Bookkeeper Lassonde: will remove employee benefits from General Fund Operating Budget and include it as a separate warrant with the compensation for the full-time firefighter.

General Fund – Street Lighting

Street Lighting

General Fund: \$144,000.00

Upon motion made by Member Lahey, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kleiner, 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 27, 2026.

Set Date

The next budget meeting will be held on Monday, March 16th at 4:00 pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

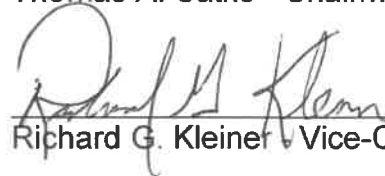
Respectfully submitted,



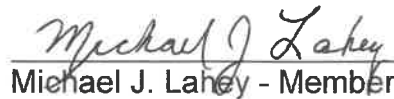
Kristen G. Rosenau - Administrative Assistant



Thomas A. Satko - Chairman



Richard G. Kleiner - Vice-Chairman



Michael J. Lahey - Member

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE