

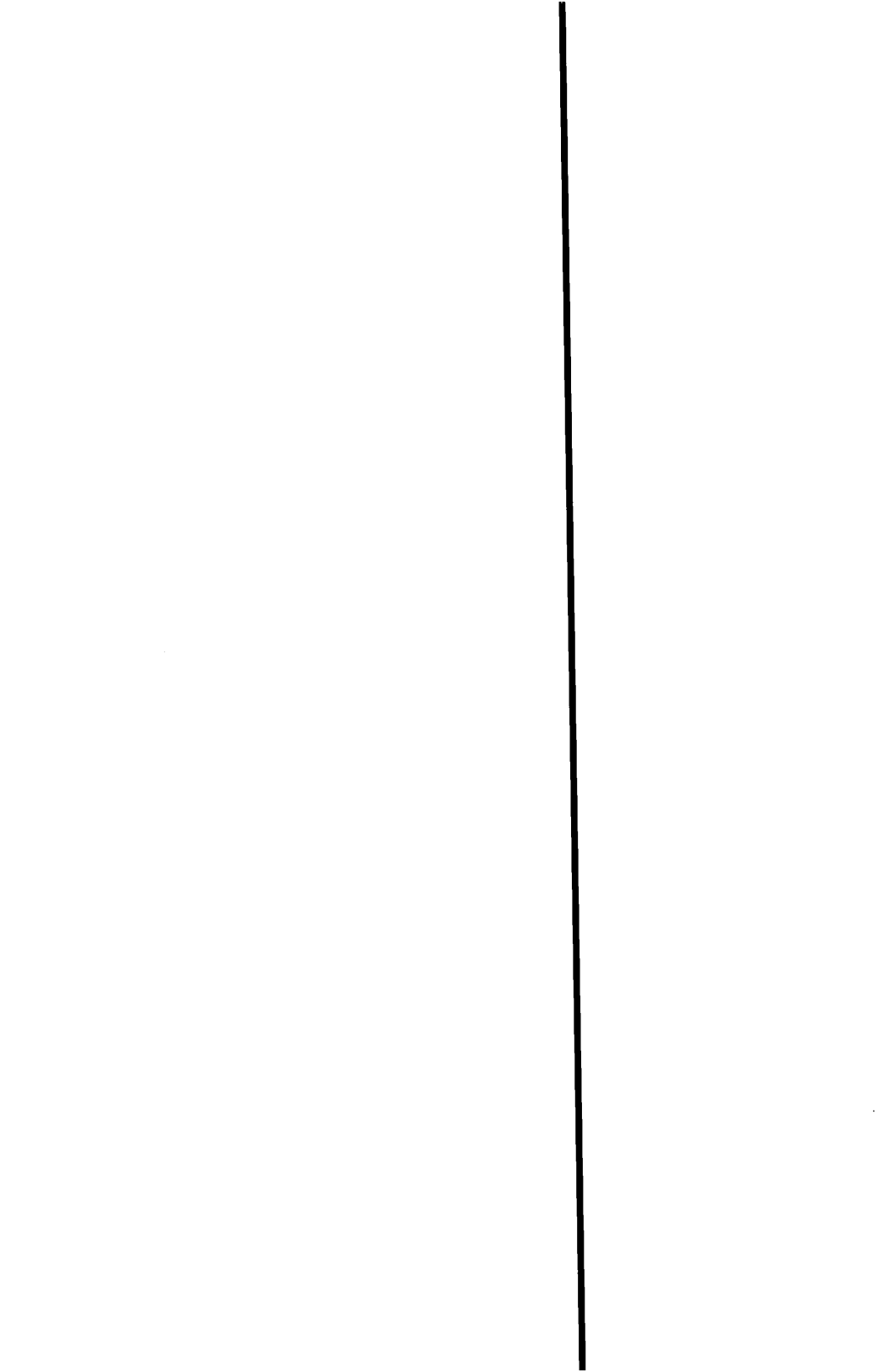


GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DISTRICT

WATER DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020



Prudential Committee / Water Commissioners

Walter F. Atwood III, Chairman

Member since May 8, 1998 ~ Term Expires 2022

Kenneth R. Schumacher, Treasurer

Member since May 17, 1999 ~ Term Expires 2023

Robert G. Hammer

Member since May 20, 2011 ~ Term Expires 2023

William F. Foster

Member since May 14, 2012 ~ Term Expires 2021

William M. Brinker

Member since May 14, 2018 ~ Term Expires 2021

Water Department Personnel

Peter H. Marks

Water Department Superintendent

Daniel N. Niewinski

Senior Water Systems Operator

Mark A. Robitaille

Water Systems Operator

Cynthia J. Ullrich

District Clerk /Assistant Treasurer

Our mission is to provide the residents and businesses of The Great Barrington Fire District with safe drinking water and fire protection. The Water Department is run by the Prudential Committee. The Superintendent manages the day-to-day operations in the field, while the District Clerk, is responsible for day-to-day clerical activities in the district office.

Great Barrington Fire District's water comes from out of the Green River infiltration gallery located in western-central Great Barrington. Maximum daily consumption (M.D.C.) was 937,900 gallons (*September 5, 2020*). Great Barrington's water system supplies approximately 1,715 service connections, 57 sprinkler lines, 322 fire hydrants and services a population of approximately 4,100 people. The water system relies on two large water tanks to provide sufficient pressure for both domestic and fire-fighting purposes.

As part of its water system management plan, the Great Barrington Fire District Water Department continues to upgrade and expand its system to meet the ever-increasing demand of a growing community.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA. D.E.P). inspects our system for its technical, financial and managerial capacity. Our water system is staffed by highly trained, dedicated personnel who continue to maintain and provide safe drinking water to the residents of the Great Barrington Fire District Water Department.

The following is a list of appropriations recommended by the Prudential Committee for the 2022 fiscal year.

SALARIES:

Superintendent	\$ 89,275.00
Treasurer	250.00
Clerk	67,908.00
Employees	136,155.00
Employees – Overtime	39,975.00
Employees – Part-time	1,000.00
Moderator	200.00
Uniforms	2,700.00
Unemployment Compensation	1.00
Employee Trust Fund	10,000.00
Other Post Employee Benefits	5,000.00

CONTRIBUTORY GROUP EXPENSES:

Health Insurance	94,368.00
County Retirement	63,691.00

OFFICE OPERATION EXPENSES:

Tax Collector and Assessor Services	32,640.00
Insurance	25,000.00
Postage	4,500.00
Telephone	2,500.00
Office Supplies	10,000.00
Audit	12,000.00
Employment Taxes	5,210.00
Annual Report and Legal Notices	1,000.00
Building / Alarms	680.00
Building / Electric	4,500.00
Building / Heat and Gas	2,500.00
Building / Sewer	700.00
Building / Maintenance	5,000.00

DEBT COSTS:

Principal (<i>FHA</i>)	88,961.64
Interest (<i>FHA</i>)	20,185.36
Principal (<i>Main St. Project</i>)	9,125.29
Interest (<i>Main St. Project</i>)	12,024.71

Principal (7& 23 Water Main)	260,000.00
Interest (7 & 23 Water Main)	16,104.00

PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES:

Consulting	20,000.00
Engineering and Map Making	4,000.00
Dues and Membership	2,000.00
Legal	7,500.00
Educational	5,000.00

WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS:

Water Construction	500,000.00
Water Maintenance	80,000.00
Water Pumping / Maintenance	40,000.00
Water Pumping / Telephone	3,000.00
Water Pumping / Electric	80,000.00
Water Pumping / Fuel	5,000.00
Alarms / Tanks and Pumping Station	790.00
Backflow	17,000.00
Meters	22,000.00
Hydrants	10,000.00
Purchase of Pipes	50,000.00
Maintenance of Equipment	7,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance and Fuel	11,000.00
Water Exploration	1.00
2021 Dump Truck	100,000.00
Stabilization Fund	27,000.00
Reserve Fund	49,000.00
Reduce Tax Levy	\$ 297,362.00

TOTAL FISCAL REVENUE:

\$ 2,360,807.00

TRANSFERS

FREE CASH	297,362.00
STABILIZATION FUND	100,000.00

TOTAL TRANSFERS

\$ 397,362.00

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CLERK

I started 2020 with a renewed hope and enthusiasm for upcoming challenges, opportunities and successes. Little did I know then that the year would be unlike any other in my lifetime, but I was prepared to react quickly.

Covid-19 affected just about every aspect of my office and how I served the residents throughout the year. Changes were implemented to be able to safely and efficiently conduct elections, district meetings and regular business. Although the office was closed to the public, we continued to make ourselves available. The district internet website *www.greatbarringtonwater.org* continues to assist customers seeking information pertaining to services, tips on saving water, online bill pay and water quality reports. Striving to improve the level of service provided to our customers remains a priority.

I would like to thank the Prudential Committee Members for their continued support and my co-workers for stepping up to the plate and continuing to provide the residents of the fire district safe drinking water and fire protection.

I look forward to a gradual resumption of normal operations and increased success in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia J. Ullrich
District Clerk

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2020**

	Primary Government
	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
CURRENT:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,473,187
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:	
Property Taxes	71,422
Tax Liens	31,640
User Charges	209,988
Total current assets	2,786,237
NONCURRENT:	
Capital Assets, net of accumulated Depreciation:	
Nondepreciable	174,481
Depreciable	5,317,741
Total noncurrent assets	5,492,222
Total Assets	8,278,459
 DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	70,991
 LIABILITIES	
CURRENT:	
Warrants and Accounts Payable	252,775
Accrued Interest	38,481
Bonds Payable	353,405
Total current liabilities	644,661
NONCURRENT:	
Compensated Absences	25,890
Net OPEB Liability	232,215
Net Pension Liability	171,528
Bonds Payable	1,861,746
Total noncurrent liabilities	2,291,379
Total Liabilities	2,936,040
 DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	59,909
 NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	3,277,071
Unrestricted	2,076,430
Total Net Position	\$ 5,353,501

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
JUNE 30, 2020**

	Primary Government
	Governmental Activities
Expenses:	
Salaries and Wages	\$ 342,161
Office and Administrative	65,983
Maintenance and Operations	343,274
Insurance and Employee Benefits	217,802
Depreciation	190,178
Interest	71,747
Total Expenses	1,231,145
 Program Revenues:	
Charges for Services	724,093
Capital Grants & Contributions	
Total Program Revenues	724,093
Net (Expense) Revenue	(507,052)
 General Revenues:	
Property Taxes	829,964
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	5,923
Unrestricted Investment Income	31,260
Total General Revenues	867,147
 Change in Net Position	 360,095
 Net Position:	
Beginning of year	4,993,406
End of year	\$ 5,353,501

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Maple Avenue		Total
	General Fund	Water Main Fund	
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	\$ 814,402	\$ -	\$ 814,402
User Charges	611,105	-	611,105
Licenses, Permits, Fees	128,355	-	128,355
Interest on Taxes	5,923	-	5,923
Interest on Investments	31,260	-	31,260
Total Revenues	1,591,045	-	1,591,045
Expenditures:			
Current:			
Salaries and Wages	316,271	-	316,271
Office and Administrative	65,983	-	65,983
Maintenance and Operations	342,774	-	342,774
Insurance and Employee Benefits	167,939	-	167,939
Capital Outlay	221,371	202,556	423,927
Debt Service:			
Principal	88,951	-	88,951
Interest	73,196	-	73,196
Total Expenditures	1,276,485	202,556	1,479,041
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Operating Transfers In	-	350,000	350,000
Operating Transfers Out	(350,000)	-	(350,000)
Proceeds from Issuance of Bonds	-	1,300,000	1,300,000
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(350,000)	1,650,000	1,300,000
Net Change in Fund Balances	(35,440)	1,447,444	1,412,004
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	2,122,806	(1,302,498)	820,308
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$ 2,087,366	\$ 144,946	\$ 2,232,312

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2020**

	General Fund	Maple Avenue Water Main Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,242,419	\$ 230,768	\$ 2,473,187
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:			
Property Taxes	71,422	-	71,422
Tax Liens	31,640	-	31,640
User Charges	209,988	-	209,988
Due From Other Governments	-	-	-
Total Assets	\$ 2,555,469	\$ 230,768	\$ 2,786,237
Liabilities:			
Warrants and Accounts Payable	\$ 166,953	\$ 85,822	\$ 252,775
Tax Refund Payable	-	-	-
Retainage Payable	-	-	-
Payroll Withholdings	-	-	-
Accrued Expenses	-	-	-
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	166,953	85,822	252,775
Deferred Inflows of Resources - Unavailable	301,150	-	301,150
Fund Balance:			
Committed	475,353	144,946	620,299
Assigned	705,757	-	705,757
Unassigned	906,256	-	906,256
Total Fund Balance	2,087,366	144,946	2,232,312
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of	\$ 2,555,469	\$ 230,768	\$ 2,786,237

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AND TAX LIENS
JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020**

	Uncollected Taxes July 1, 2019	Commitments	Abatements and Adjustments	Collections Net of Refunds and Overpayments	Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2020	Uncollected Taxes Per Detail June 30, 2020
Real Estate Taxes:						
Levy of 2020	\$ -	\$ 814,258	\$ 3,090	\$ 759,968	\$ 51,200	\$ 51,200
Levy of 2019	47,007	-	-	32,555	14,452	14,433
Levy of 2018	9,001	-	-	5,572	3,429	3,028
Levy of 2017	2,999	-	-	-	2,999	-
Levy of 2016	(100)	-	-	-	(100)	-
	<u>58,907</u>	<u>814,258</u>	<u>3,090</u>	<u>798,095</u>	<u>71,980</u>	<u>68,661</u>
Personal Property Taxes:						
Levy of 2020	-	22,547	385	21,030	1,132	1,132
Levy of 2019	2,803	-	-	2,138	665	673
Levy of 2018	1,929	-	-	1,501	428	357
Levy of 2017	187	-	-	23	164	164
Levy of 2016	222	-	-	6	216	216
Prior Years	156	-	-	-	156	156
	<u>5,297</u>	<u>22,547</u>	<u>385</u>	<u>24,698</u>	<u>2,761</u>	<u>2,698</u>
Total Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes	<u>\$ 64,204</u>	<u>\$ 836,805</u>	<u>\$ 3,475</u>	<u>\$ 822,793</u>	<u>\$ 74,741</u>	<u>\$ 71,359</u>
Tax Liens	<u>\$ 33,196</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,556</u>	<u>\$ 31,640</u>	<u>\$ 31,640</u>

**REPORT OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
WATER MAINTENANCE**

2020 turned out to be extremely unique and challenging for the District. We worked around the pandemic to provide quality service when shutting down or working remote was not an option.

The District has continued to perform a valve-exercising program. The purpose of this is to make sure that all valves are accessible and operate properly.

The District spent a considerable amount of time performing a leak detection survey to try to keep the unaccounted-for water down to a minimum. The master meters and flow controls were recalibrated for a better assessment of water consumption.

The District's employees spent significant time locating water mains and service lines as part of the Dig Safe program.

As in past years, we continue the upkeep and ground maintenance of the East Mountain Reservoir, Berkshire Heights tank, Blue Hill tank and the Green River pumping station.

WATER CONSTRUCTION

740 feet of 12" Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Bridge Street.

From the bridge to the East and Pine Street intersection. Two fire hydrants were replaced and eleven service lines were connected to the main.

1,010 feet of 8" Ductile Iron pipe was installed on River Street, two fire hydrants were replaced, three fire sprinkler lines and ten service lines were connected to the new main.

METERS

All water meters were read quarterly and the customers were billed accordingly.

HYDRANTS

In the spring all hydrants were flushed to keep the water mains clean. Notification of this cleaning was provided to the public through an announcement on the radio and in the newspapers serving the town.

After evaluating all hydrants several were repaired with new gate rubbers and stem packing and new bolts. A number of hydrants were repainted.

In the fall all hydrants were inspected, greased and winterized.

Areas surrounding the hydrants were cleared of snow after every storm and mowed in the summer months to provide better access for the Fire Department.

REPORTS

The Fire District continues to complete all necessary forms required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Fire District performs all requirements to comply with new regulations from the State or Federal Government.

A Consumer Confident Report was prepared and mailed to all water consumers. The report contained information concerning the water quality.

MassDEP conducted a Sanitary Survey of our water system in 2020. Every three years Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection evaluates our system to ensure we are complying with all Massachusetts regulations and we are managing the system properly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter H. Marks
Water Superintendent

WARRANT

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS BERKSHIRE, SS

To: CYNTHIA ULLRICH, Clerk of the **Great Barrington Fire District**

You are hereby required to notify and warn the legal voters of said Fire District to meet at the Great Barrington Fire District Building, 17 East Street, in said Great Barrington, on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. and act on the following articles.

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator of said meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To elect two (2) members of the Prudential Committee each for one (1) three (3) year term, and to elect all other proper officers which said Fire District may lawfully elect and give them any necessary instructions. All of the above-named officers will be voted for on one ballot and the polls will be open from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 3. To hear and act upon the reports of any officers or committees of said Fire District.

ARTICLE 4. 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 revenues of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds any sums of money for the following purposes, or take any action relative thereto:

- A. For salaries and related expenses of the Fire District employees and officers.
- B. For consulting fees and related expenses.
- C. For the testing, construction and maintenance of the Water Department and purchase and installation of water meters and backflow testing.
- D. For the care and repair of hydrants.
- E. For the purchase of pipe.
- F. For the care and maintenance of equipment and vehicles.
- G. For engineering and map making.
- H. For dues and membership fees.
- I. For legal and educational fees.
- J. For Tax Collector and Assessor services and supplies.
- K. For office operation expenses.
- L. For paying existing indebtedness and paying any interest which may come due.
- M. For employment taxes.
- N. For auditing the District records.
- O. For insurance.
- P. For water pumping expenses.
- Q. Building utilities and maintenance.
- R. For the reserve fund.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$63,691.00 or any other sum, to pay to the Treasurer-Custodian, Berkshire County Retirement System, in accordance with Chapter 530 of the Acts of 1951.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$94,368.00 or any other sum of the employees' and retired employees' contributory group insurance, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$5,000.00 or any other sum, to pay for Other Post Employee Benefits, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund, the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purchase of a new dump truck.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1.00 or any other sum for water exploration.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the District will vote to use \$297,362.00 of Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for the fiscal year ending 2022, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$10,000.00, or any other sum, to the Employees' Trust Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$27,000.00, or any other sum, to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Prudential Committee to sell at public or private sale any miscellaneous junk, metal or equipment no longer useful to said District, or take any other action relative thereto.

