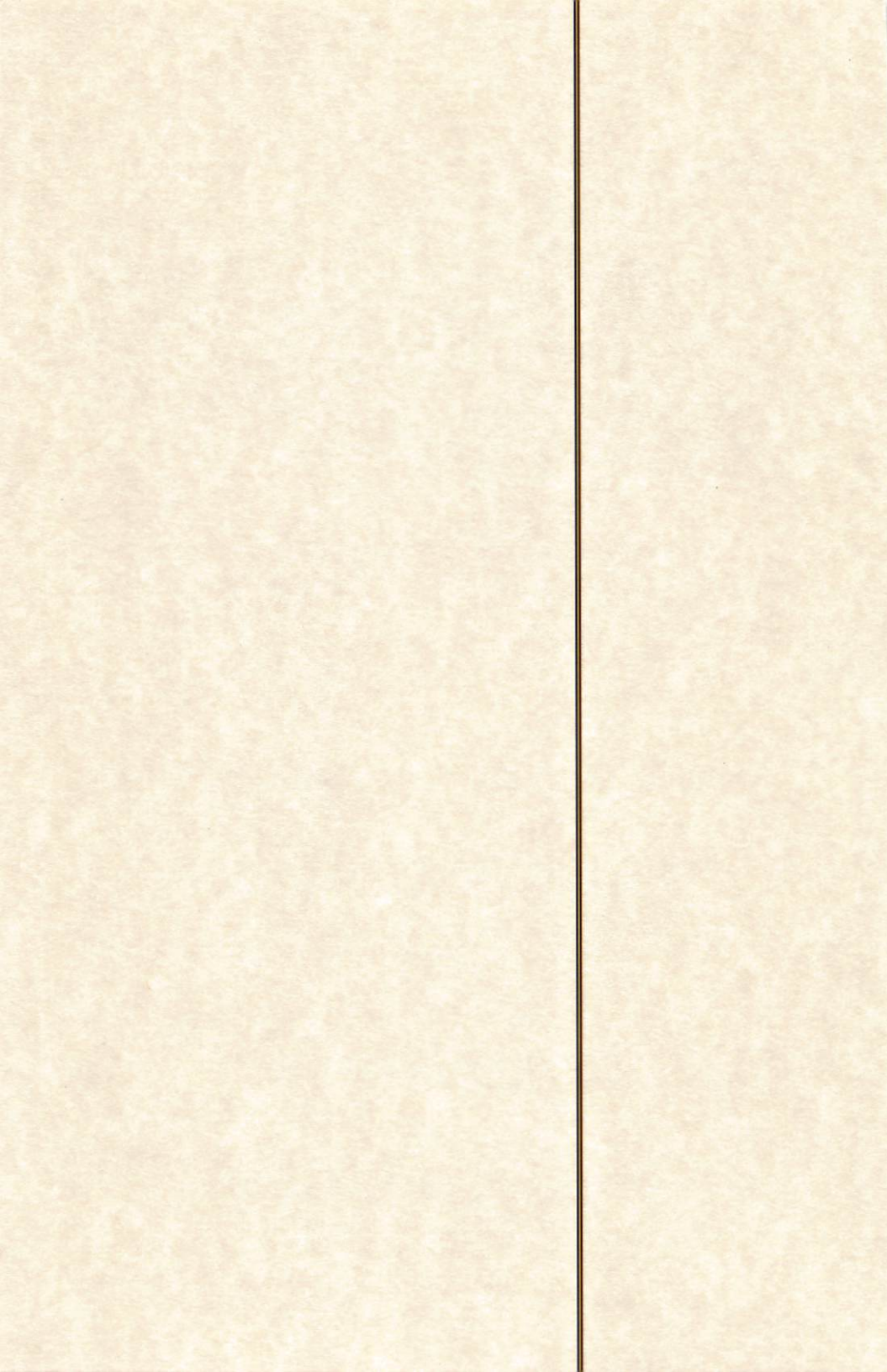


GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DISTRICT

WATER DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021



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 2024

William M. Brinker

Member since May 14, 2018 ~ Term Expires 2024

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 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.

The following is a list of appropriations recommended by the Prudential Committee for the 2023 fiscal year.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| SUPERINTENDENT | \$ 93,036.00 |
| TREASURER | \$ 250.00 |
| CLERK | \$ 71,050.00 |
| EMPLOYEES | \$142,096.00 |
| EMPLOYEES - OVERTIME | \$ 41,675.00 |
| EMPLOYEES - PART-TIME | \$ 1,000.00 |
| MODERATOR | \$ 200.00 |
| UNIFORMS | \$ 700.00 |
| SALARY - TAX COLLECTOR | \$ 2,000.00 |
| SALARY - ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR | \$ 1,000.00 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION | \$ 1.00 |
| HEALTH INSURANCE | \$ 93,448.00 |
| COUNTY RETIREMENT | \$ 68,739.00 |
| OPEB | \$ 5,000.00 |
| TAX COLLECTOR & ASSESSOR SERVICES | \$ 31,140.00 |
| INSURANCE | \$ 25,000.00 |
| POSTAGE | \$ 4,500.00 |
| TELEPHONE | \$ 2,500.00 |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES | \$ 10,000.00 |
| AUDIT | \$ 12,000.00 |
| EMPLOYMENT TAXES | \$ 5,365.00 |
| ANNUAL REPORT, LEGAL NOTICE | \$ 1,000.00 |
| BUILDING - ALARMS | \$ 680.00 |
| BUILDING - ELECTRIC | \$ 4,500.00 |
| BUILDING - HEAT & GAS | \$ 2,500.00 |
| BUILDING - SEWER | \$ 700.00 |
| BUILDING - MAINTENANCE | \$ 5,000.00 |
| PRINCIPAL (TANKS) | \$ 93,632.13 |
| INTEREST (TANKS) | \$ 15,514.87 |
| PRINCIPAL (MAIN ST PROJECT) | \$ 9,376.23 |
| INTEREST (MAIN ST PROJECT) | \$ 11,773.77 |
| PRINCIPAL (7&23 WATER MAIN) | \$260,000.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| INTEREST (7&23 WATER MAIN) | \$ 19,578.00 |
| CONSULTING | \$ 20,000.00 |
| ENGINEERING & MAP MAKING | \$ 4,000.00 |
| DUES & MEMBERSHIPS | \$ 2,000.00 |
| LEGAL | \$ 7,500.00 |
| EDUCATIONAL | \$ 5,000.00 |
| WATER CONSTRUCTION | \$500,000.00 |
| WATER MAINTENANCE | \$ 80,000.00 |
| WATER PUMPING – MAINTENANCE | \$ 40,000.00 |
| WATER PUMPING – TELEPHONE | \$ 3,000.00 |
| WATER PUMPING – ELECTRICITY | \$ 80,000.00 |
| WATER PUMPING – FUEL | \$ 5,000.00 |
| ALARMS - TANKS & PUMPING STATION | \$ 790.00 |
| BACKFLOW TESTING | \$ 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-FUEL | \$ 11,000.00 |
| 2023 UTILITY BODY TRUCK | \$ 80,000.00 |
| WATER EXPLORATION | \$ 1.00 |
| RESERVE FUND | \$ 49,000.00 |
| STABILIZATION FUND | \$ 27,000.00 |
| EMPLOYEE TRUST FUND | \$ 10,000.00 |
| RESERVE FUND | \$ 49,000.00 |

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CLERK

The Fire District Office stands ready to provide fire district residents and businesses the services they need with the highest level of quality in the most cost-effective manner possible. I remain committed to ensuring that our services are accessible to all district residents and businesses and to finding ways to deliver our services more efficiently.

It was a busy year for the District Clerk's Office. I processed water bills quarterly to over 1,700 customers which generated over \$570,000. I continued to bill for hydrant rentals, sprinkler fees, annual and semi-annual backflow tests and collected Fire District taxes from the Town of Great Barrington.

District residents and businesses can rest assured that through strategic planning, willingness to embrace change and the unwavering dedication, hard work and professionalism of district employees and Prudential Committee Board Members, the Fire District office remains well-positioned for success.

In closing, I want to thank the Prudential Committee Members and my co-workers for their continued support, professionalism and commitment to serving the residents and businesses within the Fire District. I am proud to present you, the residents of the Great Barrington Fire District, with the District Clerk's Annual Report for 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia J. Ullrich
District Clerk

**GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2021**

Primary Government
Governmental
Activities

ASSETS CURRENT:

| | | |
|--|----|------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ | 1,912,688 |
| Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible: | | |
| Property Taxes | | 318,194 |
| Tax Liens | | 41,571 |
| User Charges | | <u>183,196</u> |
| Total current assets | | <u>2,455,649</u> |

NONCURRENT:

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Capital Assets, net of accumulated Depreciation: | | |
| Non-depreciable | | 174,481 |
| Depreciable | | <u>5,297,182</u> |
| Total noncurrent assets | | <u>5,471,663</u> |
| Total Assets | | 7,927,312 |

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions | 45,782 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|

LIABILITIES

CURRENT:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Warrants and Accounts Payable | 227,148 |
| Accrued Interest | 32,072 |
| Bonds Payable | <u>358,087</u> |
| Total current liabilities | <u>617,307</u> |

NONCURRENT:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Compensated Absences | 26,844 |
| Net OPEB Liability | 159,233 |
| Net Pension Liability | 70,526 |
| Bonds Payable | <u>1,503,659</u> |
| Total noncurrent liabilities | <u>1,760,262</u> |
| Total Liabilities | 2,377,569 |

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions | 94,881 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|

NET POSITION

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Net Investment in Capital Assets | 3,609,917 |
| Unrestricted | <u>1,890,727</u> |
| Total Net Position | \$ 5,500,644 |

**GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
JUNE 30, 2021**

| | Primary Government Governmental Activities |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Expenses: | |
| Salaries and Wages | \$ 330,012 |
| Office and Administrative | 83,660 |
| Maintenance and Operations | 450,731 |
| Insurance and Employee Benefits | 64,351 |
| Depreciation | 209,756 |
| Interest | <u>63,113</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>1,201,623</u> |
| Program Revenues: | |
| Charges for Services | <u>753,349</u> |
| Total Program Revenues | <u>753,349</u> |
| Net (Expense) Revenue | (448,274) |
| General Revenues: | |
| Property Taxes | 577,876 |
| Penalties & Interest on Taxes | 5,358 |
| Unrestricted Investment Income | <u>12,183</u> |
| Total General Revenues | <u>595,417</u> |
| Change in Net Position | 147,143 |
| Net Position: | |
| Beginning of year | <u>5,353,501</u> |
| End of year | <u>\$ 5,500,644</u> |

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2021**

| | General Fund | Maple Avenue Water Main Fund | Total Governmental Funds |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Revenues: | | | |
| Property Taxes | \$ 591,673 | \$ - | \$ 591,673 |
| User Charges | 574,623 | - | 574,623 |
| Licenses, Permits, Fees | 205,518 | - | 205,518 |
| Interest on Taxes | 5,358 | - | 5,358 |
| Interest on Investments | 12,183 | - | 12,183 |
| Total Revenues | <u>1,389,355</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,389,355</u> |
| Expenditures: | | | |
| Current: | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 329,058 | - | 329,058 |
| Office and Administrative | 83,660 | - | 83,660 |
| Maintenance and Operations | 323,476 | - | 323,476 |
| Insurance and Employee Benefits | 178,154 | - | 178,154 |
| Capital Outlay | 316,452 | - | 316,452 |
| Debt Service: | | | |
| Principal | 353,405 | - | 353,405 |
| Interest | 69,522 | - | 69,522 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>1,653,727</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,653,727</u> |
| Other Financing Sources (Uses): | | | |
| Operating Transfers In | - | - | - |
| Operating Transfers Out | - | - | - |
| Total Other Financing Sources (Uses) | - | - | - |
| Net Change in Fund Balances | (264,372) | - | (264,372) |
| Fund Balances, Beginning of Year | <u>2,087,366</u> | <u>144,946</u> | <u>2,232,312</u> |
| Fund Balances, End of Year | <u>\$ 1,822,994</u> | <u>\$ 144,946</u> | <u>\$ 1,967,940</u> |

**GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2021**

| | General Fund | Maple Avenue Water Main Fund | Total Governmental Funds |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Assets: | | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 1,767,742 | \$ 144,946 | \$ 1,912,688 |
| Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible: | | | |
| Property Taxes | 318,194 | - | 318,194 |
| Tax Liens | 41,571 | - | 41,571 |
| User Charges | <u>183,196</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>183,196</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>\$ 2,310,703</u> | <u>\$ 144,946</u> | <u>\$ 2,455,649</u> |
| Liabilities: | | | |
| Warrants and Accounts Payable | <u>\$ 227,148</u> | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ 227,148</u> |
| Total Liabilities | <u>227,148</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>227,148</u> |
| Deferred Inflows of Resources - Unavailable Revenue | <u>260,561</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>260,561</u> |
| Fund Balance: | | | |
| Committed | 475,353 | 144,946 | 620,299 |
| Assigned | 397,362 | - | 397,362 |
| Unassigned | <u>950,279</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>950,279</u> |
| Total Fund Balance | <u>1,822,994</u> | <u>144,946</u> | <u>1,967,940</u> |
| Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances | <u>\$ 2,310,703</u> | <u>\$ 144,946</u> | <u>\$ 2,455,649</u> |

GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AND TAX LIENS
JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

| | Uncollected Taxes July 1, 2020 | Commitments | Abatements and Adjustments | Collections Net of Refunds and Overpayments | Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2021 | Uncollected Taxes Per Detail June 30, 2021 |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Real Estate Taxes: | \$ - | \$ 580,739 | \$ 4,170 | \$ 273,178 | \$ 303,391 | \$ 302,270 |
| Levy of 2021 | 51,200 | - | 11,905 | 32,057 | 7,238 | 7,793 |
| Levy of 2020 | 14,452 | - | 13,237 | 1,882 | (667) | 687 |
| Levy of 2019 | 3,429 | - | 3,429 | - | - | - |
| Levy of 2018 | 2,999 | - | 2,999 | - | - | - |
| Levy of 2017 Prior Years | (100) | - | (100) | - | - | - |
| | <u>71,980</u> | <u>580,739</u> | <u>35,640</u> | <u>307,117</u> | <u>309,962</u> | <u>310,750</u> |
| Personal Property Taxes: | - | 14,637 | 70 | 7,662 | 6,905 | 6,906 |
| Levy of 2021 | 1,132 | - | 29 | 795 | 308 | 308 |
| Levy of 2020 | 665 | - | - | 406 | 250 | 267 |
| Levy of 2019 | 428 | - | - | 178 | 250 | 178 |
| Levy of 2018 | 164 | - | - | 10 | 154 | 154 |
| Levy of 2017 | 372 | - | - | 16 | 356 | 356 |
| Prior Years | 2,761 | 14,637 | 99 | 9,067 | 8,232 | 8,169 |
| Total Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes | <u>\$ 74,741</u> | <u>\$ 595,376</u> | <u>\$ 35,739</u> | <u>\$ 316,184</u> | <u>\$ 318,194</u> | <u>\$ 318,919</u> |
| Tax Liens | <u>\$ 31,640</u> | <u>\$ 21,726</u> | <u>\$ 6,807</u> | <u>\$ 4,988</u> | <u>\$ 41,571</u> | <u>\$ 41,578</u> |

**REPORT OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021
WATER MAINTENANCE**

2021 turned out to be an 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 apart 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

535 feet of 8" Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Rosseter Street. One fire hydrant was replaced and seventeen service lines were connected to the main.

490 feet of 8" Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Cottage Street. One fire hydrant was replaced and nine service lines were connected to the new main.

800 feet of 8" Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Gilmore Avenue. One fire hydrant was replaced and 14 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 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.

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 16, 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 one (1) member of the Prudential Committee 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, 2022 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 and transfer from Maple Avenue and Main Street water main 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 purchase, 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 \$68,739.00 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

\$93,448.00 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 \$80,000.00 for the purchase of a new utility body 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.

