



**GREAT BARRINGTON**  
**FIRE DISTRICT**  
**WATER DEPARTMENT**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

## **Prudential Committee / Water Commissioners**

**Walter F. Atwood III, Chairman**

*Member since May 8, 1998 ~ Term Expires 2025*

**Kenneth R. Schumacher, Treasurer**

*Member since May 17, 1999 ~ Term Expires 2026*

**Robert G. Hammer**

*Member since May 20, 2011 ~ Term Expires 2026*

**William F. Foster**

*Member since May 14, 2012 ~ Term Expires 2027*

**William M. Brinker**

*Member since May 14, 2018 ~ Term Expires 2027*

## **Water Department Personnel**

**Peter H. Marks**

*Water Department Superintendent*

**Daniel N. Niewinski**

*Senior Water Systems Operator*

**Mark A. Robitaille**

*Water Systems Operator*

**Jeffrey W. Snyder**

*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 1,131,600 gallons (*September 30, 2024*). Great Barrington's water system supplies approximately 1,728 service connections, 59 sprinkler lines, 324 fire hydrants and services a population of approximately 4,380 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 2026 fiscal year.

SUPERINTENDENT	\$	108,794.00
TREASURER	\$	250.00
CLERK	\$	82,977.00
EMPLOYEES	\$	238,650.00
EMPLOYEES - OVERTIME	\$	50,000.00
EMPLOYEES - PART-TIME	\$	1,000.00
MODERATOR	\$	300.00
UNIFORMS	\$	7,000.00
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	\$	1.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$	159,000.00
COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$	52,200.00
OPEB	\$	100,000.00
TAX COLLECTOR & ASSESSOR SERVICES	\$	38,311.10
INSURANCE	\$	35,000.00
POSTAGE	\$	500.00
TELEPHONE	\$	2,500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	10,000.00
AUDIT	\$	12,000.00
EMPLOYMENT TAXES	\$	7,500.00
ANNUAL REPORT, LEGAL NOTICE	\$	1,000.00
BUILDING - ALARMS	\$	1,200.00
BUILDING - ELECTRIC	\$	5,000.00
BUILDING - HEAT/GAS	\$	4,000.00
BUILDING - SEWER	\$	875.00
BUILDING - MAINTENANCE	\$	5,000.00
PRINCIPAL (MAIN ST PROJECT)	\$	10,171.24
INTEREST (MAIN ST PROJECT)	\$	10,978.76
CONSULTING	\$	25,000.00
ENGINEERING & MAP MAKING	\$	4,000.00
DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	\$	2,500.00
LEGAL	\$	10,000.00
EDUCATIONAL	\$	7,500.00

WATER CONSTRUCTION	\$	500,000.00
WATER MAINTENANCE	\$	100,000.00
WATER PUMPING - MAINTENANCE	\$	50,000.00
WATER PUMPING - TELEPHONE	\$	3,500.00
WATER PUMPING - ELECTRICITY	\$	140,000.00
PURCHASE OF PIPE	\$	100,000.00
WATER PUMPING - FUEL	\$	10,000.00
ALARMS - TANKS & PUMPING STATION	\$	800.00
BACKFLOW TESTING	\$	17,000.00
METERS	\$	22,000.00
HYDRANTS	\$	20,000.00
MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	\$	10,000.00
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE-FUEL	\$	11,000.00
2025 UTILITY BODY TRUCK	\$	120,000.00
WATER EXPLORATION	\$	770,000.00
RESERVE FUND	\$	49,000.00
STABILIZATION FUND	\$	30,000.00
EMPLOYEE TRUST FUND	\$	15,000.00

## **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CLERK**

I am pleased to present you, the residents of the Great Barrington Fire District, with the District Clerk's Annual Report for 2024. This Annual Report provides a review of the district's activities from the previous year. My goal remains to provide you with an accurate and transparent accounting of our operations and activities.

The Fire District Office stands ready to provide fire district residents and businesses with the services they need and 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 \$685,000. 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia J. Ullrich  
District Clerk

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Primary Government</u>
	<u>Governmental</u>
	<u>Activities</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT:</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,140,124
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:	
Property Taxes	76,014
Tax Liens	42,238
User Charges	227,881
Due from other governments	-
Total current assets	<u>2,486,257</u>
<b>NONCURRENT:</b>	
Net Pension Asset	-
Capital Assets, net of accumulated Depreciation:	
Nondepreciable	174,481
Depreciable	6,050,881
Total noncurrent assets	<u>6,225,362</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>8,711,619</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	<u>80,718</u>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>	
<b>CURRENT:</b>	
Warrants and Accounts Payable	149,424
Retainage Payable	-
Tax Refund Payable	9,200
Payroll Withholdings	490
Accrued Interest	12,283
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable	-
Bonds Payable	373,240
Total current liabilities	<u>544,637</u>
<b>NONCURRENT:</b>	
Compensated Absences	32,184
Net OPEB Liability	266,462
Net Pension Liability	68,998
Bonds Payable	399,228
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>766,872</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>1,311,509</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	<u>11,825</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	5,452,894
Restricted for Capital Projects	-
Unrestricted	2,016,109
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 7,469,003</u>

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT****STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES****JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Primary Government Governmental Activities</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Salaries and Wages	\$ 432,493
Office and Administrative	79,360
Maintenance and Operations	568,614
Insurance and Employee Benefit	272,114
Depreciation	265,738
Interest	28,472
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,646,791</b>
<b>Program Revenues:</b>	
Charges for Services	845,979
Capital Grants & Contributions	38,200
<b>Total Program Revenues</b>	<b>884,179</b>
<b>Net (Expense) Revenue</b>	<b>(762,612)</b>
<b>General Revenues:</b>	
Property Taxes	1,647,133
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	9,780
Unrestricted Investment Income	58,660
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>1,715,573</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>952,961</b>
<b>Net Position:</b>	
Beginning of year	6,516,042
End of year	\$ 7,469,003

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this Sta



**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Property Taxes	\$ 1,638,971	\$ 1,638,971
Intergovernmental	38,200	38,200
User Charges	698,445	698,445
Licenses, Permits, Fees	149,667	149,667
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	9,780	9,780
Interest on Investments	58,660	58,660
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>2,593,723</b>	<b>2,593,723</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Current:		
Salaries and Wages	429,485	429,485
Office and Administrative	79,360	79,360
Maintenance and Operations	317,791	317,791
Insurance and Employee Benefits	236,400	236,400
Capital Outlay	574,803	574,803
Debt Service:		
Principal	368,182	368,182
Interest	35,167	35,167
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>2,041,188</b>	<b>2,041,188</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>		
Operating Transfers In		-
Operating Transfers Out		-
Capital Lease		-
Proceeds from Issuance of Bonds		-
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<b>552,535</b>	<b>552,535</b>
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>1,483,475</b>	<b>1,483,475</b>
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 2,036,010</b>	<b>\$ 2,036,010</b>

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

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

**JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,140,124	\$ 2,140,124
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:		
Property Taxes	76,014	76,014
Tax Liens	42,238	42,238
User Charges	227,881	227,881
Due From Other Governments		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,486,257</b>	<b>\$ 2,486,257</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Warrants and Accounts Payable	\$ 149,424	\$ 149,424
Tax Refund Payable	9,200	9,200
Retainage Payable		
Accrued Interest		
Payroll Withholdings	490	490
Accrued Expenses	-	-
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>159,114</b>	<b>159,114</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources - Unavailable</b>	<b>291,133</b>	<b>291,133</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>		
Committed	689,305	689,305
Assigned	371,029	371,029
Unassigned	975,676	975,676
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,036,010</b>	<b>2,036,010</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of</b>	<b>\$ 2,486,257</b>	<b>\$ 2,486,257</b>

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

**REPORT OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024  
WATER MAINTENANCE**

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**

740 feet of 8 inch Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Mahaiwe Street. 10 service lines and 1 hydrant were connected to the new main.

785 feet of 8 inch Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Christain Hill Road. 2 service lines and 2 hydrants were connected to the new main.

436 feet of 6 inch Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Anderson Street. 2 service lines and 1 hydrant were connected to the new main.

260 feet of 6 inch Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Hillside Avenue. 3 service lines and 1 hydrant 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 12, 2025 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 and Board of Public Works for a 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 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, 2025 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 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. For 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 \$52,200.00 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 \$159,000.00 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 \$100,000.00 or any other sum, to pay for Other Post Employment Benefits, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$770,000.00 or any other sum for water exploration.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the district will vote to use \$240,190.00 of Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for the fiscal year 2026, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$15,000.00, or any other sum, to the Employees' Trust Fund, 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 \$30,000.00, or any other sum, to the Stabilization 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 \$120,000.00 for the purchase of a new utility body truck.

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.