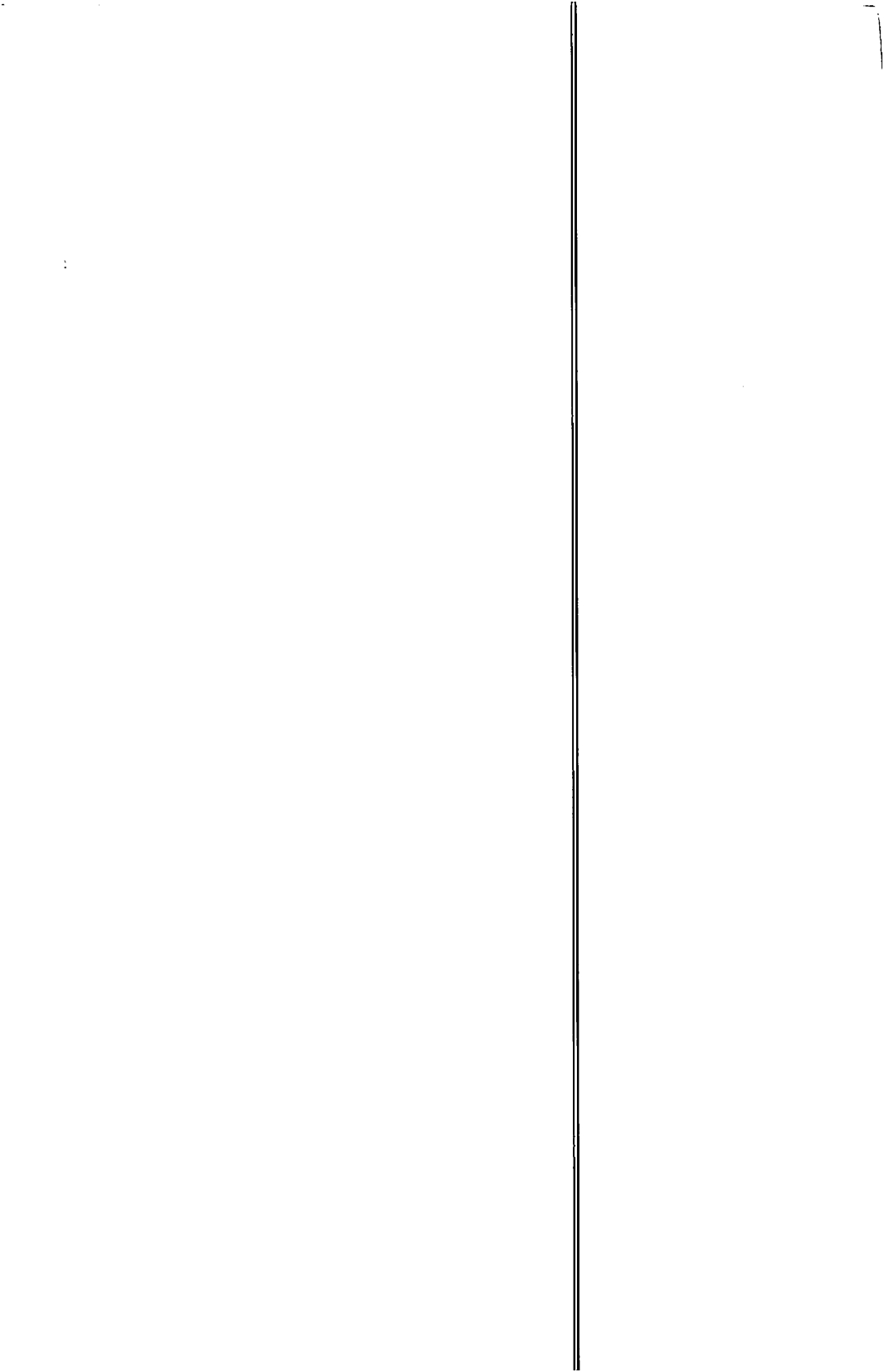




**GREAT BARRINGTON
FIRE DISTRICT
WATER DEPARTMENT**

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023



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 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

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 995,000 gallons (*December 25, 2022*). Great Barrington's water system supplies approximately 1,725 service connections, 59 sprinkler lines, 322 fire hydrants and services a population of approximately 4,254 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	\$	103,995.00
TREASURER	\$	250.00
CLERK	\$	79,296.00
EMPLOYEES	\$	223,822.00
EMPLOYEES - OVERTIME	\$	46,500.00
EMPLOYEES - PART-TIME	\$	1,000.00
MODERATOR	\$	300.00
UNIFORMS	\$	6,500.00
SALARY - TAX COLLECTOR	\$	2,500.00
SALARY - ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR	\$	3,000.00
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	\$	1.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$	137,040.00
COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$	65,821.00
OPEB	\$	100,000.00
TAX COLLECTOR & ASSESSOR SERVICES	\$	33,196.00
INSURANCE	\$	30,000.00
POSTAGE	\$	500.00
TELEPHONE	\$	2,500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	10,000.00
AUDIT	\$	12,000.00
EMPLOYMENT TAXES	\$	6,920.00
ANNUAL REPORT, LEGAL NOTICE	\$	1,000.00
BUILDING - ALARMS	\$	540.00
BUILDING - ELECTRIC	\$	5,000.00
BUILDING - HEAT & GAS	\$	4,000.00
BUILDING - SEWER	\$	750.00
BUILDING - MAINTENANCE	\$	5,000.00
PRINCIPAL (TANKS)	\$	103,341.37
INTEREST (TANKS)	\$	5,425.42
PRINCIPAL (MAIN ST PROJECT)	\$	9,899.01
INTEREST (MAIN ST PROJECT)	\$	11,250.99
PRINCIPAL (7&23 WATER MAIN)	\$	260,000.00

INTEREST (7&23 WATER MAIN)	\$ 6,526.00
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	\$ 3,000.00
WATER PUMPING – ELECTRICITY	\$ 140,000.00
PURCHASE OF PIPE	\$ 100,000.00
WATER PUMPING – FUEL	\$ 10,000.00
ALARMS - TANKS & PUMPING STATION	\$ 270.00
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
WATER EXPLORATION	\$ 500,000.00
RESERVE FUND	\$ 49,000.00
STABILIZATION FUND	\$ 29,000.00
EMPLOYEE TRUST FUND	\$ 10,000.00

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CLERK

I am pleased to provide the Great Barrington Fire District Water Department's Annual Report for fiscal year 2023. My office continues to provide the optimum level of service the residents of the Great Barrington Fire District deserve.

Our annual audit of the district finances by an independent Certified Public Account took place in August. Quarterly water bills were delivered to 1,725 fire district customers which generated \$639,283. Bills for hydrant rentals, sprinkler fees, annual and semi-annual backflow tests were processed, and fire district taxes were turned over from the Town of Great Barrington. Our website (greatbarrintonwater.org) and Facebook social media page (Great Barrington Water Department) are maintained to better assist our customers.

I would like to recognize my co-workers for their professionalism and commitment to the fire district residents. I would also like to thank the Prudential Committee members for their continued support.

The Prudential Committee meetings continue to be held on the first and third Tuesday of each month and meeting notices are posted as required. Now, as always, we remain committed to our most important priority – bringing the best quality, reliable and affordable water to the Great Barrington Fire District residents.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia J. Ullrich
District Clerk / Assistant Treasurer

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023**

	Primary Government
	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
CURRENT:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,608,253
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:	
Property Taxes	33,933
Tax Liens	42,657
User Charges	230,014
Total current assets	1,914,857
NONCURRENT:	
Capital Assets, net of accumulated Depreciation:	
Nondepreciable	174,481
Depreciable	5,992,639
Total noncurrent assets	6,167,120
Total Assets	8,081,977
 DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	135,278
 LIABILITIES	
CURRENT:	
Warrants and Accounts Payable	146,169
Payroll Withholdings	109
Accrued Interest	18,978
Bonds Payable	368,182
Total current liabilities	533,438
NONCURRENT:	
Compensated Absences	29,176
Net OPEB Liability	187,139
Net Pension Liability	178,992
Bonds Payable	772,468
Total noncurrent liabilities	1,167,775
Total Liabilities	1,701,213
 DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	-
 NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	5,026,470
Unrestricted	1,489,572
Total Net Position	\$ 6,516,042

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
JUNE 30, 2023**

	Primary Government Governmental Activities
Expenses:	
Salaries and Wages	\$ 357,011
Office and Administrative	71,252
Maintenance and Operations	427,567
Insurance and Employee Benefits	208,878
Depreciation	246,892
Interest	40,271
Total Expenses	1,351,871
Program Revenues:	
Charges for Services	792,687
Total Program Revenues	792,687
Net (Expense) Revenue	(559,184)
General Revenues:	
Property Taxes	985,067
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	12,533
Unrestricted Investment Income	23,891
Total General Revenues	1,021,491
Change in Net Position	462,307
Net Position:	
Beginning of year	6,053,735
End of year	\$ 6,516,042

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

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Maple Avenue Water Main Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	\$ 984,287	\$ -	\$ 984,287
User Charges	646,352	-	646,352
Licenses, Permits, Fees	128,880	-	128,880
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	12,533	-	12,533
Interest on Investments	23,891	-	23,891
Total Revenues	1,795,943	-	1,795,943
Expenditures:			
Current:			
Salaries and Wages	355,821	-	355,821
Office and Administrative	71,252	-	71,252
Maintenance and Operations	422,512	-	422,512
Insurance and Employee Benefits	196,934	-	196,934
Capital Outlay	854,223	-	854,223
Debt Service:			
Principal	363,009	-	363,009
Interest	46,866	-	46,866
Total Expenditures	2,310,617	-	2,310,617
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Operating Transfers In	144,946	-	144,946
Operating Transfers Out	-	(144,946)	(144,946)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	144,946	(144,946)	-
Net Change in Fund Balances	(369,728)	(144,946)	(514,674)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	1,853,203	144,946	1,998,149
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$ 1,483,475	\$ -	\$ 1,483,475

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Water Main Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,608,253		\$ 1,608,253
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:			
Property Taxes	33,933	-	33,933
Tax Liens	42,657	-	42,657
User Charges	230,014	-	230,014
Total Assets	\$ 1,914,857	\$ -	\$ 1,914,857
Liabilities:			
Warrants and Accounts Payable	\$ 146,169	\$ -	146,169
Payroll Withholdings	109	-	109
Total Liabilities	146,278	-	146,278
Deferred Inflows of Resources - Unavailable Revenue	285,104	-	285,104
Fund Balance:			
Committed	401,929		401,929
Assigned	173,357	-	173,357
Unassigned	908,189	-	908,189
Total Fund Balance	1,483,475	-	1,483,475
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	\$ 1,914,857	\$ -	\$ 1,914,857

**REPORT OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
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

425 feet of 8 inch Ductile Iron pipe was installed on Giddings Street. 7 service lines and 1 hydrant were connected to the new main.

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

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

4400 feet of 12 inch Ductile Iron pipe was installed from the Green River Pumping Station to Maple Avenue.

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 13, 2024 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 and Board of Public Works each for a three (3) year terms, 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, 2024 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. 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 \$65,821.00 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 \$137,040.00 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 Employee 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 \$500,000.00 or any other sum for water exploration.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the District will vote to use \$371,029.00 of Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for the fiscal year ending 2025, 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 \$10,000.00, 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 \$29,000.00, 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 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.

ARTILCE 14. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Prudential Committee to purchase approximately 1 acre of real property located on Christian Hill Road from the Community Land Trust in the Southern Berkshires, Inc. related to the Interconnection with Housatonic Water Works Company or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Prudential Committee to purchase the following real estate with any buildings thereon; being Lot 3C as shown on the Assessors Map #37 located at 363 State Road for the development of new water wells; that the sum of \$209,000.00 or any other sum is appropriated for the purchase of said real estate and to pay any other costs incidental and related thereto; and to authorize the District Treasurer with the

approval of the Prudential Committee to borrow \$209,000.00, or any other sum in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 or any other enabling authority; and that the Prudential Committee be authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this purchase.

1. The first part of the document
describes the general situation
of the country and the
state of the economy.

2. The second part of the document
describes the state of the
economy and the
state of the country.