

GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DISTRICT ~ PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE
ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING
M.T. CAVANAUGH FIRE DISTRICT BUILDING
17 EAST STREET
MAY 13, 2024



In attendance:

Prudential Committee Members: Walter F. Atwood, Kenneth Schumacher, Robert Hammer, William Foster, William Brinker
District Clerk: Cynthia Ullrich
Moderator: Michael Wise
Legal Counsel: Kathleen McCormick
Total voters who attended: 21

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the residents of the Great Barrington Fire District qualified to vote in District Meetings proceeded to vote at the above meeting place with the following results. The meeting was duly called to order at 6:00 P.M. by District Clerk Cynthia Ullrich who welcomed everyone to the Great Barrington Fire District Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE 1:

On a motion by Cynthia Ullrich and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was unanimously voted to elect Michael Wise as moderator of said meeting.

Article 1 passed unanimously 6:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 2:

On a motion by Walter Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was unanimously voted to open the polls to elect two (2) members to the Prudential Committee and Board of Public Works for a three (3) year term.

Article 2 passed unanimously 6:01 P.M.

ARTICLE 2(A):

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Kenneth Schumacher, it was voted to postpone the business portion of the meeting until 7:00 P.M.

Article 2(A) passed unanimously 6:03 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Moderator Michael Wise who stated that there was a quorum present and noted the return and service of the warrant. Mr. Wise explained the rules of the meeting. The meeting will be governed by the Massachusetts General Laws and the Bylaws of the Great Barrington Fire District. Only registered voters living in the Great Barrington Fire District may participate in the meeting unless permission is granted by the moderator. Before addressing the District Meeting, voters recognized by the moderator must state their name and address. It was recommended that voters speak only once per motion and limit their comments to three minutes. All questions are to be addressed to the moderator who will ask the appropriate person to respond.

ARTICLE 3:

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted to accept the reports of the officers and committees of the Fire District as printed in the Annual Report of the Fire District.

Article 3 passed unanimously – 7:02 P.M.

ARTICLE 4:

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Walter Atwood it was voted to authorize the Treasurer, with 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 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 General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Article 4 passed unanimously -7:02 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (A):

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of \$461,664.00 be raised and appropriated for the salaries, uniforms, and unemployment compensation of the officers of the Fire District to be apportioned as follows:

Superintendent	\$ 103,995.00
Treasurer	\$ 250.00
District Clerk	\$ 79,296.00
Employees	\$223,822.00
Employees - Overtime	\$ 46,500.00
Employees - Part-time	\$ 1,000.00
Uniform	\$ 6,500.00
Moderator	\$ 300.00
Unemployment Compensation	\$ 1.00

Article 5(A) passed unanimously – 7:02 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (B):

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted the sum of \$25,000.00 be raised and appropriated for consulting fees.

The following people spoke on this article: Walter Atwood and Thomas Ferris.

Article 5(B) passed unanimously – 7:02 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (C):

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted the sum of \$639,000.00 be raised and appropriated for water construction, water maintenance, meters and backflow testing:

Water Construction	\$500,000.00
Water Maintenance	\$100,000.00
Meters	\$ 22,000.00
Backflow Testing	\$ 17,000.00

Article 5(C) passed unanimously – 7:03 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (D):

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of \$20,000.00 be raised and appropriated for the care and repair of hydrants.

Article 5(D) passed unanimously -7:03 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (E):

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Robert Hammer, it was voted the sum of \$100,000.00 be raised and appropriated for purchase of pipe.

Article 5(E) passed unanimously – 7:04 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (F):

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded Robert Hammer, it was voted the sum of \$21,000.00 be raised and appropriated for the care and maintenance of equipment, vehicle maintenance and fuel to be apportioned as follows:

Maintenance of Equipment	\$10,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance - Fuel	\$11,000.00

Article 5(F) passed unanimously 7:04 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (G):

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by Robert Hammer, it was voted the sum of \$4,000.00 be raised and appropriated for engineering and map making.

Article 5(G) passed unanimously – 7:05 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (H):

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of \$2,500.00 be raised and appropriated for dues and membership.

Article 5(H) passed unanimously - 7:05 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (I):

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted the sum of \$17,500.00 be raised and appropriated for the legal and educational to be apportioned as follows:

Educational	\$ 7,500.00
Legal	\$10,000.00

Article 5(I) passed unanimously 7:05 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (J)

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted the sum of \$38,696.00 be raised and appropriated for Tax Collector and Assessors Services and Supplies apportioned as follows:

Tax Collector and Assessors Supplies	\$33,196.00
Tax Collector Services	\$ 2,500.00
Assistant Tax Collector Services	\$ 3,000.00

Article 5(J) passed unanimously 7:06 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (K)

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by William Foster, it was voted the sum of \$14,000.00 be raised and appropriated for office expenses to be apportioned as the following:

Postage	\$ 500.00
Telephone	\$ 2,500.00
Office Supplies	\$10,000.00
Annual Report, Legal Notice	\$ 1,000.00

Article 5(K) passed unanimously – 7:06 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (L)

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of \$396,442.79 be raised and appropriated for indebtedness and interest to be apportioned as follows:

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)	\$ 6,226.00

Article 5(L) passed unanimously 7:07 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (M)

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted that the sum of \$6,920.00 be raised and appropriated for employment taxes.

Article 5(M) passed unanimously – 7:07P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (N)

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of \$12,000.00 be raised and appropriated for audit of District records.

Article 5(N) passed unanimously – 7:07 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (O)

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted the sum of \$30,000.00 be raised and appropriated for insurance.

Article 5(O) passed unanimously – 7:07 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (P)

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of \$203,270.00 be raised and appropriated for water pumping to be apportioned as follows:

Water Pumping - Maintenance	\$ 50,000.00
Water Pumping - Telephone	\$ 3,000.00
Water Pumping - Electric	\$140,000.00
Water Pumping - Fuel	\$ 10,000.00
Alarms (Tanks & Pumping Station)	\$ 270.00

Article 5(P) passed unanimously – 7:08 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (Q)

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by Robert Hammer, it was voted the sum of \$15,290.00 be raised and appropriated for East Street building maintenance to be apportioned as follows:

Building Electric	\$ 5,000.00
Building Heat/Gas	\$ 4,000.00
Building Sewer	\$ 750.00
Alarms (17 East Street)	\$ 540.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00

Article 5(Q) passed unanimously 7:08 P.M.

ARTICLE 5 (R)

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by Walter Atwood Foster, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 49,000.00 to the Reserve Fund.

Article 5(R) passed unanimously - 7:09 P.M.

ARTICLE 6

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of \$65,821.00 be raised and appropriated to pay the treasurer-custodian, Berkshire County Retirement System, in accordance with Chapter 530 of the Acts 1951.

Article 6 passed unanimously – 7:09 P.M.

ARTICLE 7

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted the sum of \$137,040.00 be raised and appropriated to pay the employees and retired employees contributory group insurance.

Article 7 passed unanimously – 7:09 P.M.

ARTICLE 8

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by William Brinker it was voted the sum of \$100,000.00 be raised and appropriated for Other Post Employee Benefits

Article 8 passed unanimously – 7:10 P.M.

ARTICLE 9

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 for Water Exploration.

Michael Wise, Moderator stated this article required a 2/3 majority vote for passage.

The vote was Yes: 21; No: 0

Declared majority at 7:10 P.M.

ARTICLE 10

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by William Foster, it was voted to transfer the sum of \$371,029.00 from Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for the fiscal year ending 2025

Article 11 passed unanimously – 7:11 P.M.

ARTICLE 11

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Employee Trust Fund.

Article 11 passed unanimously – 7:11 P.M.

ARTICLE 12

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,000.00 for the Stabilization Fund.

Article 12 passed unanimously – 7:12 P.M.

ARTICLE 13

On a motion by Walter Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted that the Prudential Committee is authorized to sell at public or private sale any miscellaneous junk, metal or equipment no longer useful to said District.

Article 13 passed unanimously – 7:12 P.M.

ARTICLE 14

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by Robert Hammer, it was voted 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. in connect with the Interconnection with Housatonic Water Works Company.

Michael Wise, Moderator stated this article required a 2/3 majority vote for passage.

The vote was Yes: 21; No: 0

Declared majority at 7:13 P.M.

ARTICLE 15

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted 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.

The following people spoke on this article: Bernard Drew and Walter Atwood.

Michael Wise, Moderator stated this article required a 2/3 majority vote for passage.

The vote was Yes: 21; No: 0

Declared majority at 7:17 P.M.

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted to suspend this meeting until 8:00 P.M.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote – 7:18 P.M.

On a motion by Walter Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted to adjourn and dissolve this meeting.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote – 8:00 P.M.

Election results:

Voted for two members to the Prudential Committee and Board of Public Works for a three-year term.

William Foster – 21 votes

William Brinker – 21 votes

21 Registered voters signed in

