**Great Barrington Fire District ~ Prudential Committee**

Annual District Meeting

M.T. Cavanaugh Fire District Building

17 East Street

MAY 15, 2023



In attendance:

Prudential Committee Members: Walter F. Atwood, Kenneth Schumacher, Robert Hammer, William

Foster, William Brinker

District Superintendent: Peter Marks

District Clerk: Cynthia Ullrich

Moderator: Michael Wise

Legal Counsel: Kathleen McCormick

Total voters who attended: 42

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 Walter F. Atwood and seconded by Kenneth Schumacher, it was unanimously voted to elect Michael Wise as moderator of said meeting.

*Article 1 passed unanimously 6:01 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 2:**

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher 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 6:02 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 Robert Hammer, 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 Robert Hammer and seconded by William Brinker 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, 2023 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 -7:03 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (A):**

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of $432,808.00 be raised and appropriated for the salaries, uniforms and unemployment compensation of the officers of the Fire District to be apportioned as follows:

Superintendent $ 99,696.00

Treasurer $ 250.00

District Clerk $ 75,921.00

Employees $206,147.00

Employees - Overtime $ 44,593.00

Employees - Part-time $ 1,000.00

Uniform $ 5,000.00

Moderator $ 200.00

Unemployment Compensation $ 1.00

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

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

**ARTICLE 5 (B):**

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by William Foster, it was voted the sum of $20,000.00 be raised and appropriated for consulting fees.

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

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

**ARTICLE 5 (C):**

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by William Foster, it was voted the sum of $619,055.00 be raised and appropriated for water construction, water maintenance, meters and backflow testing:

Water Construction $500,000.00

Water Maintenance $ 80,000.00

Meters $ 22,000.00

Backflow Testing $ 17,000.00

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

**ARTICLE 5 (D):**

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by Robert Hammer, it was voted the sum of $10,000.00 be raised and appropriated for the care and repair of hydrants.

The following people spoke on this article: Walter Atwood and Sharon Gregory.

*Article 5(D) passed unanimously -7:08 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (E):**

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

*Article 5(E) passed unanimously – 7:10 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (F):**

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded William Brinker, it was voted the sum of $18,000.00 be raised and appropriated for the care and maintenance of equipment, vehicle maintenance and fuel to be apportioned as follows:

Maintenance of Equipment $ 7,000.00 Vehicle Maintenance - Fuel $11,000.00

*Article 5(F) passed unanimously 7:10 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 – 7:11 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (H):**

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by William Foster, it was voted the sum of $2,000.00 be raised and appropriated for dues and membership.

*Article 5(H) passed unanimously 7:11 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (I):**

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by Kenneth Schumacher, it was voted the sum of $12,500.00 be raised and appropriated for the legal and educational to be apportioned as follows:

Educational $ 5,000.00

Legal $ 7,500.00

*Article 5(I) passed unanimously 7:12 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (J)**

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by William Foster, it was voted the sum of $34,919.00 be raised and appropriated for Tax Collector and Assessors Services and Supplies apportioned as follows:

Tax Collector and Assessors Supplies $31,919.00

Tax Collector Services $ 2,000.00

Assistant Tax Collector Services $ 1,000.00

*Article 5(J) passed unanimously 7:12 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (K)**

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, 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 – 7:13 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (L)**

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of $409,875.00 be raised and appropriated for indebtedness and interest to be apportioned as follows:

Principal (tanks) $ 98,547.82

Interest (tanks) $ 10,599.80

Principal (Main St. project) $ 9,634.08

Interest (Main St. project) $ 11,515.92

Principal (7&23 Water Main) $260,000.00

Interest (7&23 Water Main) $ 13,052.00

*Article 5(L) passed unanimously 7:14 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (M)**

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by William Foster, it was voted the sum of $6,652.00 be raised and appropriated for employment taxes.

*Article 5(M) passed unanimously – 7:14 P.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 – 7:15 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (O)**

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by Walter Atwood, it was voted the sum of $27,000.00 be raised and appropriated for insurance.

*Article 5(O) passed unanimously – 7:15 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (P)**

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by Robert Hammer, it was voted the sum of $188,270.00 be raised and appropriated for water pumping to be apportioned as follows:

Water Pumping - Maintenance $ 40,000.00

Water Pumping - Telephone $ 3,000.00

Water Pumping - Electric $140,000.00

Water Pumping - Fuel $ 5,000.00

Alarms (Tanks & Pumping Station) $ 270.00

The following people spoke on this article: Walter Atwood, Peter Marks and Martha Bridge.

*Article 5(P) passed unanimously – 7:16 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (Q)**

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of $14,740.00 be raised and appropriated for East Street building maintenance to be apportioned as follows:

Building Electric $ 4,500.00

Building Heat/Gas $ 4,000.00

Building Sewer $ 700.00

Alarms (17 East Street) $ 540.00

Building Maintenance $ 5,000.00

Walter Atwood spoke on this article.

*Article 5(Q) passed unanimously 7:18 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 5 (R)**

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by William Foster, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $ 49,000.00 to the Reserve Fund.

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

*Article 5(R) passed unanimously - 7:22 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 6**

On a motion by William Foster and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of $91,939.00 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 – 7:20 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 7**

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted the sum of $128,100.00 be raised and appropriated to pay the employees and retired employees contributory group insurance.

*Article 7 passed unanimously – 7:20 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 8**

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by William Foster, it was voted the sum of $5,000.00 be raised and appropriated for Other Post Employee Benefits

*Article 8 passed unanimously* – 7:21 P.M.

**ARTICLE 9**

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

The following people spoke on this article: Walter Atwood, William Foster, William Brinker, Robert Hammer and Sharon Gregory.

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

*The vote was Yes: 42; No: 0*

*Declared majority at 7:36 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 10**

On a motion by Kenneth Schumacher and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted to transfer the sum of $173,357.00 from Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for the fiscal year ending 2023

*Article 11 passed unanimously – 7:36 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 11**

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

*Article 11 passed unanimously – 7:37 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 12**

On a motion by William Foster 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 – 7:37 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 13**

On a motion by Robert Hammer and seconded by Kenneth Schumacher, 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.

The following people spoke on this article: Walter Atwood and Martha Bridge.

*Article 13 passed unanimously – 7:38 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 14**

On a motion by Walter Atwood and seconded by Kenneth Schumacher, it was voted to appropriate

the sum of TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 ($2,400,000.00) DOLLARS or any other amount to pay for the Green River Pump Station UV Disinfection Upgrades, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow the sum of TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 ($2,400,000.00) DOLLARS under and pursuant to CH. 44 Sec. (5) of the General Laws or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the

The following people spoke on this article: Walter Atwood, Peter Marks, Robert Kraus, Thomas Ferris, David Simmons and Sharon Gregory.

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

*The vote was Yes: 42; No: 0*

*Declared majority at 7:46 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 15:**

On a motion by Walter Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted to appropriate the sum of TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 ($2,200,000.00) DOLLARS or any other amount to pay for an Interconnection with Housatonic Water Works Company, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow the sum of TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 ($2,200,000.00) DOLLARS under and pursuant to CH. 44 Sec. (5) of the General Laws or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the district therefore.

to appropriate

The following people spoke on this article: Walter Atwood, Thomas Ferris, David Simmons and Sharon Gregory.

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

*The vote was Yes: 41; No: 1*

*Declared majority at 7:56 P.M.*

**ARTICLE 16:**

On a motion by Walter Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted to appropriate the sum of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 ($400,000.00) DOLLARS or any other amount to pay for an a New Source Test Well, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow the sum of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 ($400,000.00) DOLLARS under and pursuant to CH. 44 Sec. (5) of the General Laws or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the district therefore.

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

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

*The vote was Yes: 42; No: 0*

*Declared majority at 7:59 P.M.*

On a motion by Walter F. Atwood and seconded by William Brinker, it was voted to close the polls.

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

**ARTICLE 17:**

On a motion by William Brinker and seconded by Walter Atwood it was voted to annex to the said District in accordance with the petition of Butternut Basin, Inc. and Jeffrey H. Murdock to include the following parcels as part of the Great Barrington Fire District:

TRACT ONE Parcel I (380 State Road, Great Barrington, MA) and Parcel II (388 State Road, Great Barrington, MA):

Tract One is all and the same premises conveyed to Butternut Basin, Inc. by deed of Channing B. Murdock and Jane H. Murdock, dated January 8, 1963 and recorded in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds in Book 337, Page 476.

TRACT TWO (4.3 acres, Off State Road, Great Barrington, MA):

Tract Two is all and the same premises conveyed to Butternut Basin, Inc. by deed of Clotilde M. Kirchhoff, et als, dated August 9, 1971 and recorded in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds in Book 376, Page 451.

TRACT THREE (3.781 acres, Off State Road, Great Barrington, MA):

Tract Three is all and the same premises conveyed to Butternut Basin, Inc. by deed of Edward P. Holohan, et als, dated April 15, 1982 and recorded in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds in Book 506, Page 213.

TRACT FOUR (Lake Buel Road, Great Barrington, MA):

Tract Four is all and the same premises conveyed to Butternut Basin, Inc. by deed of Jimmy Jay Jacobs dated August 2, 1971 and recorded in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds in Book 376, Page 425.

TRACT FIVE (Lake Buel Road, Great Barrington):

Tract Five is all and the same premises conveyed to Butternut Basin, Inc. by deed of Sonja L. Murdock dated August 24, 1982 and recorded in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds in Book 511, Page 296.

TRACT SIX (370 State Road, Great Barrington):

Tract six is all and the same premises conveyed to JEFFREY H. MURDOCK by deed of KURT F. SOMERVILLE and STEPHEN W. KIDDER, AS TRUSTEES OF THE MURDOCK HOLOHAN REALTY TRUST dated February 16, 2012 and recorded on February 22, 2012 at the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds in Book 2100, Page 194.

*Article 17 passed unanimously – 8:02 P.M.*

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

*Motion passed with a unanimous vote – 8:05 P.M.*

Election results:

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

Kenneth R. Schumacher – 39 votes

Robert G. Hammer Jr. – 35 votes

42 Registered voters signed in

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia J. Ullrich

District Clerk