

FIRE DISTRICT NO.1  
144 NEWTON STREET  
SOUTH HADLEY, MA 01075

DOINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING  
May 23, 2024

MINUTES OF THE FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 ANNUAL MEETING

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant the inhabitants of Fire District No. 1, South Hadley, Massachusetts, met at the hour and place designated.

It took 72 voters about 1 hour and five minutes to discuss and vote on the 47 articles on the warrant during the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School, 15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, MA.

The Annual Meeting was digitally voice recorded, and broadcast live on SHCTV15.

It is noted here that all articles were moved and seconded, except for Article 47, although such is not recorded individually here within these minutes.

The Moderator welcomed the public.

The following is the action taken on the articles:

**ARTICLE 1** It was moved that the district vote to accept the report of the Prudential Committee as found on pages 3 thru 8 in the annual report dated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 2** It was moved that the District vote to accept the report of the Board of Water Commissioners as published on pages 16 thru 21 of the Annual District Report for the year ending June 30, 2023.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 3** It was moved that the district vote to accept the report of the District Treasurer as found on pages 9 thru 15 in the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

**Motion passed with a majority affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 4** It was moved that the District will vote to fix the salary and compensation of the following elective officers of the Fire District No. 1 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as follows:

Moderator	\$280.15 per year (includes 3% COLA)
Prudential Committee Chair	\$1,674.74 per year (includes 3% COLA)
Prudential Committee Clerk	\$1,940.40 per year (includes 3% COLA)
Prudential Committee Member	\$1,674.74 per year (includes 3% COLA)
Board of Water Commissioners Chair	\$1,500.00 per year
Board of Water Commissioners Clerk	\$1,500.00 per year
Board of Water Commissioners Member	\$1,500.00 per year
District Clerk/Treasurer	\$75,587.03 per year (includes 3% COLA and \$400 Longevity)

**ARTICLE 5** It was moved that the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,915,571, and transfer the sum of \$853,057 from the Ambulance Reserve Fund, for a total of \$2,768,628 to fund the Personnel Services Account as detailed in the Prudential Committee FY25 budget document, found on page 6 in the Annual Report dated June 30, 2023.

**Motion passed with a majority affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 6** It was moved that the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$312,000, and transfer the sum of \$63,000 from the Ambulance Reserve Fund, for a total of \$375,000 to fund the Fire Department Operating Expense Account as detailed in the Prudential Committee FY25 budget document, found on page 6 in the Annual Report dated June 30, 2023.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 7** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from the Ambulance Reserve Fund, the sum of \$260,000 to fund the Ambulance Operating Expense Account as detailed in the Prudential Committee FY25 budget document, found on page 6 in the Annual Report dated June 30, 2023.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 8** It was moved that the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,900, and transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$100,000, for a total of \$141,900 to fund the Administration Operating Expense Account as found in the Prudential Committee FY25 budget document, found on pages 6 and 7 in the Annual Report dated June 30, 2023.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 9** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 to fund the Legal Fees Union Negotiations Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 10** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 to fund the Air Compressor Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 11** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 to fund the Fire Department Building Improvement Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 12** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000 to fund the Fire Department Major Equipment Repair Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 13** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000 to fund the Fire Gear Replacement Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 14** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from the Fire Gift Fund Account the sum of \$2,267, and to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$733, for a total of \$3,000 to fund the Jaws of Life Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 15** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$10,000 to fund the Alarm Radio Console Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 16** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 to fund the SCBA Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 17** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from the Ambulance Gift Fund Account, the sum of \$500 to fund the Ambulance Computer Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 18** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from the Ambulance Reserve Fund, the sum of \$5,000 to fund the Ambulance Infusion Pumps Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 19** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$80,000, and transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the Mt. Holyoke College Gift Account for a total of \$120,000 for the Debt Principal Account to fund the annual principal payment for the Fire Department ladder truck.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 20** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,550 for the Debt Interest Account to fund the annual interest payment for the Fire Department ladder truck.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 21** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$35,000 to fund the Fire Stabilization Fund Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 22** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$60,000 to fund the Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 23** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from the Ambulance Reserve Fund, the sum of \$100,000 to fund the Ambulance Stabilization Fund Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 24** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from the Fire Gifts Account, the sum of \$2,700 to fund the Promotional Exams Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 25** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000, and transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Ambulance Reserve Fund, for a total of \$150,000 to fund the Fire Department Other Post-Employee Benefits (OPEB) Fund Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 26** It was moved that the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$663,050 to be paid by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer Custodian of the Hampshire County Retirement System.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 27** It was moved that the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$640,000 to fund the Medical, Dental and Life Insurance benefits account for certain persons in the service of the District for health, dental and life insurance benefits at seventy-five (75%) percent of the premium.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 28** It was moved that the District will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000 to fund the New Fire Station Account.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 29** It was moved that the District will vote to authorize the District Treasurer, with the approval of the majority of the Prudential Committee, to make legal and prudent investments of the District's funds all pursuant of the terms, conditions and restrictions of all relevant sections of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 167.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 30** It was moved that the District will vote to authorize the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the financial year beginning July 1, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4 and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 31** It was moved that the District will vote to allow the Prudential Committee to sell surplus equipment or material.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 32** It was moved that the District will vote to authorize the Prudential Committee to apply for, accept and expend any State or Federal Grant.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 33** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,148,446.00 to defray the operating cost of the Water Department and to meet said appropriation transfer:

\$625,647.00 for Wages and Salaries (inclusive of 3% raise)  
\$1,205,000.00 for Maintenance and Operations  
\$17,500.00 for the Office of the Clerk/Treasurer  
\$10,000.00 for the Reserve Fund  
\$64,436.00 for Amortization of Debt for the Ludlow Facility  
\$1,919.00 for Interest on Debt for the Ludlow Facility  
\$3,000.00 for the Travel expense  
\$5,000.00 for the Audit expense  
\$5,000.00 for the Compensation account  
\$144.00 for Loan Fees  
\$2,000.00 for Computer Equipment and Software  
\$203,800.00 for Amortization of Debt for Newton St.  
\$3,000.00 for the Shop Repair and Improvements account  
\$2,000.00 for the Computer Meter Reading Equipt. Account  
For a Total of \$2,148,446.00 from Water Receipts.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 34** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$240,000.00 for the Health, Dental and Life Insurance Account and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$240,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 35** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$171,000.00 for the Retirement Account, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$171,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 36** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 for the Water Tank Stabilization Fund and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 37** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the Critical Infrastructure Stabilization Fund, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from its Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 38** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 for the Meter Replacement Account, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$25,000.00 from its Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 39** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 for the Replacement and Installation of New Water Mains Account, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 40** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Water Tank Upkeep and Repair Account, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$15,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 41** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for the Water Main Leak Detection Account, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$2,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 42** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 for the SCADA System Equipment and Maintenance Account, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$8,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 43** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$90,000.00 for the New Skid Steer Loader Account and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$90,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 44** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the OPEB Trust Fund Account, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 45** It was moved that the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for the Leaping Wells Watershed Account, and to meet said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$3,000.00 from the Water Available Surplus.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 46** It was moved that the District vote on a Citizen's Petition as follows:

Part A: to transfer from free cash the sum of \$50,000.00 to hire a consultant to perform a financial analysis of combining Fire District 1 with Fire District 2 in the Town of South Hadley.

Part B: to amend Section 4 of the District Bylaws by replacing "seventh Monday" with "eighth Monday"

Part C-1: to amend Section 1 of the District Bylaws by replacing "The annual district meeting shall be held on the month and day to coincide with the month and day of the Town of South Hadley's annual election..." with "The annual district election shall be held on the month and day to coincide with the month and day of the Town of South Hadley's annual election..."

Part C-2: to amend Section 1 of the District Bylaws by replacing "The hours and location of voting for the annual district meeting shall be set..." with "The hours and location of voting for the annual district election shall be set..."

Part D: to amend Section 12 of the District Bylaws by replacing "a. meet for organization not later than the fourth week after the annual meeting..." with "a. meet for organization not later than the fourth week after the annual district election..."

Part E: to amend Section 14 of the District Bylaws by replacing "a. As soon as possible after the annual District meeting the Board of Water Commissioners shall meet for organization and elect by ballot from their members a Chairman, an Associate Member and a Clerk." with "a. meet for organization not later than the fourth week after the Annual District Election, and shall elect by ballot from their members a Chairman, an Associate Member and a Clerk.".

Motion was made and seconded to amend Article 46 by striking the first paragraph (Part A).

**Motion to Amend passed.**


**Motion as amended passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**ARTICLE 47** No motion was made.

Motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 pm.

**Motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**

**I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Annual Meeting and a true record of the doings at said meeting.**

  
Kari Scytowski, District Clerk

Amended Article 46 — Jeff Cys.

**ARTICLE 46** To see if the District will vote on a Citizen's Petition as follows:

~~"An~~ ~~appropriately~~ ~~from~~ ~~available~~ ~~surplus~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~fund~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~District~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~sum~~ ~~of~~ ~~up~~ ~~to~~ ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~used~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~of~~ ~~improving~~ ~~the~~ ~~water~~ ~~supply~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~District~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~Town~~ ~~of~~ ~~South~~ ~~Hadley~~.

**Article B.** To see if the District will amend Section 4 of the District bylaws as follows:

**Existing Bylaw**

SECTION 4. Names of candidates for any office shall be placed on the ballot by petition of the Clerk of the District, accompanied by an acceptance by the candidate, and shall be signed by not less than ten registered voters of the District and filed with the Clerk of the District before five o'clock in the afternoon of the seventh Monday preceding the annual election.

**Proposed Bylaw**

SECTION 4. Names of candidates for any office shall be placed on the ballot by petition of the Clerk of the District, accompanied by an acceptance by the candidate, and shall be signed by not less than ten registered voters of the District and filed with the Clerk of the District before five o'clock in the afternoon of the Eighth Monday preceding the annual election.

**Article C.** To see if the District will amend Section 1 of the District bylaws as follows:

**Existing Bylaw**

SECTION 1. The annual district meeting shall be held on the month and day to coincide with the month and day of the Town of South Hadley's annual election as stated in Chapter 18-1 of the By-Laws of the Town of South Hadley, as amended from time to time. The hours and location of voting for the annual district meeting shall be set to coincide with the hours and location of the Town of South Hadley's annual election as established by Order of the Select Board. The polling place for the district voters shall be in a separate location within the building for the polling place for the town voters.

**Proposed Bylaw**

SECTION 1. The Annual District Election shall be held on the month and day to coincide with the month and day of the Town of South Hadley's Annual Election as stated in Chapter 18-1 of the By-Laws of the Town of South Hadley, as amended from time to time. The hours and location of voting for the Annual District Election shall be set to coincide with the hours and location of the Town of South Hadley's Annual Election as established by Order of the Select Board. The polling place for the District voters shall be in a separate location within the building from the polling place for the Town voters.

**Article D.** To see if the District will amend Section 12 of the District bylaws as follows:

**Existing Bylaw**

SECTION 12. The Prudential Committee shall consist of three members elected in the manner herein before described. The Prudential Committee shall:

- a. meet for organization not later than the fourth week after the annual meeting, and shall then elect by ballot from their number, a Chairman and Clerk, each of whom shall serve one year or until their successors are chosen.

**Proposed Bylaw**

SECTION 12. The Prudential Committee shall consist of three members elected in the manner herein before described. The Prudential Committee shall:

- a. meet for organization not later than the fourth week after the Annual District Election, and shall then elect by ballot from their number, a Chairman and Clerk, each of whom shall serve one year or until their successors are chosen.