

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

144 NEWTON STREET

South Hadley, MA 01075

Minutes: January 6, 2026

Location: South Hadley Public Library

Attendance: Kurt Schenker, John Wojciechowski

Call to order

Kurt calls the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. Noted that the meeting was being recorded.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

No meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Approval of Ambulance Adjustments

John motions to adjust the ambulance adjustments for November 2025 in the amount of \$186,713.71. Kurt seconds. Unanimously passes.

Chief's Report

- **Call Volume:** December 2025 call volume included 28 fire calls and 236 medical calls, totaling 264 calls. Total call volume for full year 2025 reached 3,110 calls (563 fire calls, 2,547 ambulance calls), marking the largest annual call volume in district history.
- **Inspections:** Conducted 10 business inspections, 1 school inspection, 15 smoke/CO inspections, 2 smoke detector installs, and 6 oil burner inspections.
- **Events & Community Outreach:** SAFE program visits were conducted at Tree of Life and Brighter Beginnings daycares. Department members and TRIAD delivered Christmas gift bags.
- **Regional Dispatch Update:** Discussions are ongoing with two regional dispatch centers. An upcoming state meeting will review the Hampden County Regional Dispatch Center study via the Collins Center (UMass). There is no cost to join the regional system for the first 3 years, after which costs transition to a percentage model reaching 100% District responsibility by Year 3 or 4.

John motions to accept the Chief's Report as read. Kurt seconds. Unanimously passes.

Treasurer's Report & FY2027 Budget Review

- **Financial Overview & Line Items:**

- Ambulance Account balance currently stands at \$1,873,473 (excluding December commitments).
- County Retirement is set at \$675,000.
- Health Insurance budget request is set at \$1,005,000 (accounting for a potential 20% increase).
- Medicare is wage dependent and set at \$46,000.00.
- General Insurance is expecting a 10%–15% increase (not sure of any effect from recent insurance claims).
- Administrative Salaries amount didn't change.
- Admin Legal is set at \$12,000.
- Audit Line is adjusted to \$6,250 (50% share of the total \$12,500 audit cost split with the Water Department).
- Office Expense and Elections remained the same.
- Website / IT Line funding is left at \$0 for this year due to an existing balance of \$12,713.
- Actuary Report received an added \$1,400 to bring the balance to \$5,000 for the fall invoice.
- Prudential Committee Expenses is set at \$300.
- Union Legal Fees receives \$0 additional funding for now (current balance: \$9,700; contract runs through June 30, 2027).

- **Salary & Wage Decisions:**

- Proposed 2% increase for Tax Collector (Donna Whiteley).
- Proposed 2% increase for Associate Assessor (Missy).
- 0% increase for Board of Assessors (3 members).
- Proposed 3% increase for Moderator.
- 0% increase for Prudential Committee Members.

- **Financial Overview & Line Items:**

- Review of the 5400 and 5800 accounts. Most accounts proposed as level funded.
- Air Compressor increased \$500. New compressor will be coming soon.
- Building Improvement increased \$130,000 due to floor work (\$25-\$27 per square feet) in the garage and the landings (\$7,000).
- Major Equipment Repair increased \$10,000.
- Fire Gear Replacement set at \$35,000 due to the eradication of PFAS in the gear.
- Jaws of Life and Alarm Room Console remained the same
- SCBA added \$15,000.
- Promotional Exams remained the same
- New Fire Station set at \$20,000.
- Discussion to add a capital account for Regional Dispatch Account and set at \$10,000.

- Mitch Malinowski asks about what is happening about combining the Districts. He wants it to be talked about at a District level.
 - Ambulance Salary, OT, and Stipends remained the same
 - Fuel is set at \$22,000.
 - Upkeep and Repair increased by \$2,000.
 - Medical Supplies increased by \$3,000.
 - Licenses and Fees kept the same.
 - Outside Services (Comstar) set at \$65,000.
 - Training set at \$25,000.
 - Office kept the same.
 - Computer increased \$500.
 - New Ambulance Account will be closed and monies will be moved back to the Ambulance Reserve. Vote will likely happen at next meeting.
 - Pumps added \$1,000.
 - Fire Stabilization set at \$0.
 - Fire Vehicle set at \$60,000.
 - Ambulance Stabilization set at \$100,000.
 - OPEB set at \$150,000.
 - Total estimated budget about \$6.25 Million, an increase of about 6% over the prior year.
- **Funding Sources:**
 - Expecting to use about \$1.75 million from Ambulance Reserve, about \$513,263 from Free Cash, \$20,000 from Mount Holyoke, and approximately \$1,000 from Gifts
 - Expected Tax Levy amount \$3,957,170, which would be a proposed tax rate of 2.04, up from 1.89.

Adjournment

John motions to adjourn. Kurt seconds. Unanimously passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shauna Condon, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer