

**MINUTES OF THE WALLINGFORD FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
Annual Meeting**

**April 19, 2022**

The moderator Dennis Stocker called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Prudential Committee members present: Kandie Stocker, Bill Brooks, Kevin Vaughn and Marianne McClure the Clerk/Treasurer. There were nine (9) Fire District Residents, along with nine (9) visitors in attendance.

Moderator Dennis Stocker read the warning.

The legal voters of Fire District No. 1, Wallingford, Vermont are hereby warned to meet at the Wallingford Fire Station (17 Railroad Street) on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm for the Annual Fire District Meeting to act upon the following articles. Face masks are recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

**Article 01. Will the District vote to approve and authorize the Prudential Committee to expend the specific amounts of monies to be appropriated for all necessary Water/Sewer Fund expenses and apportioned by the Prudential Committee for the several purposes provided as per the proposed 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$440,099.00?**

Anthony Petrossi made a motion that was seconded by Kyle Stocker to open Article 01 for discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Dennis then asked if there were any questions.

Shane St. Claire asked the board where the money is coming from and if we were raising money through the meters. Shane said the Fire District tax was very reasonable but that the cost of water has gone up 288% since 2001. Shane stated that the contract from 2001 was not supposed to increase. Shane stated that the rates have gone up 4 times in the last year and asked why do they keep going up. Kandie stated that the expenses have gone up therefore they have to raise the rates to keep up with and meet the budget. Shane said families must be struggling. He said that the meters shouldn't run the budgets and that they should get another bond instead. Shane also stated the Fire District should get money from the Town to help with the expenses of the water and sewer system. He said the Selectboard should give the Fire District money. Bill Brooks stated that it has been over 20 years since that contract was done up and since then the rates would have to go up to keep up with the expenses. Dennis stated that Shane could petition the State to force a meeting with the Prudential Committee about the rates. Shane said the water meter should not fund the water system. Kandie said that the Fire District is a business, a

corporation, and that they have to raise the money from somewhere. She stated that they are not making a profit off of this. Shane asked again why they can't get another bond. Shane stated that on his tax bill from the Town there is a \$500 municipal charge that the Selectboard should increase to give the water and sewer more money instead of raising the rates. Bill corrected Shane and said that the \$500 municipal charge on the Town tax bill does NOT come to the Fire District. Bill said that the Fire District does not get any money from the Town. Kandie also told Shane that there is an article in the office that discussed the rates rising over the years and told him he could come to the office to grab a copy of it.

Anne Awad, who lives at Highland Estates, which has about 38 houses across the bridge and gets water from the Fire District, asked the board that when the Budget is approved aren't the rates already set at that time. Kandie explained that they are not set at that time for the fiscal year, but that the Fire District does have to meet the Budget so therefore they have to raise the rates throughout the fiscal year to meet the budget. Anne asked if the water and sewer were combined on the bill as Highland Estates only has water. Kandie said no, that they would only be charged for water and that it is based on their usage.

Shane stated that he felt more people would come to the annual meeting if they put something on the pamphlet about water and sewer as he thought it was just for the Fire Department.

Kandie stated that Shane and Anne could come to a regular Prudential Committee meeting to discuss any issues further.

Dennis asked if there were any more questions, hearing no questions, Dennis called for a motion to close discussion and vote. Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to close discussion and approve Article 01. The motion was approved (8-1).

**Article 02. Will the District vote to approve and authorize the Prudential Committee to expend the specific amounts of monies to be appropriated for all necessary General Fund expenses and apportioned by the Prudential Committee for the several purposes provided as per the proposed 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$83,150.00?**

Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to open Article 02 for discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Dennis then asked if there were any questions.

Shane asked where this money was coming from and if would affect the water and sewer rates. Kandie said no, this is the general budget and the money raised for this comes from the Fire District taxes on the water/sewer bill. Dennis asked if there were any more questions, hearing no questions, Dennis called for a motion to close discussion and vote.

Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to close discussion and approve Article 02. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Article 03. Will the District vote to approve and authorize the Prudential Committee to expend the specific amounts of monies to be appropriated for all necessary Fire Protection Fund expenses and apportioned by the Prudential Committee for the several purposes provided as per the proposed 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$123,330.00?**

Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to open Article 03 for discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Dennis then asked if there were any questions.

Dennis asked if there were any questions, hearing no questions, Dennis called for a motion to close discussion and vote. Kyle made a motion that was seconded by Anthony to close discussion and approve Article 03. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Article 04. Will the Fire District vote to have all Fire District Taxes, Water Bond, Water/Sewer Rents payable quarterly to the Wallingford Fire District #1 when due?**

Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to open Article 04 for discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Dennis then asked if there were any questions.

Hearing no questions, Dennis called for a motion to close discussion and vote. Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to close discussion and approve Article 04. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Article 05. Will the Fire District authorize the Prudential Committee to borrow such monies as may be necessary to meet the operation expenses of the District?**

Kyle made a motion that was seconded by Anthony to open Article 05 for discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Dennis then asked if there were any questions.

Kandie stated that in the past 10 years that she has been on the Board they haven't had to borrow any money. Shane said they shouldn't be afraid to do another bond payment to pay for the pumps, etc. Kyle made a motion to allow Mark Barone to speak as he is Fire District #2, Anthony seconded it. Mark asked if the Town would save any money by hiring one guy to do the water and sewer instead of contracting it out to Simons and paying them \$153,500 a year. Bill stated that one guy would cost at least \$75,000 a year not including health insurance and overtime. Kandie stated that years ago when they had one guy, he got hurt and there was no one to run the plant and they had to pay someone

overtime costing them even more than what they are paying Simons. She said that Simons has a crew of 5-6 people and that they take care of everything.

Hearing no more questions, Dennis called for a motion to close discussion and vote. Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to close discussion and approve Article 05. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Article 06: To elect all Fire District Officers required by law.**

Dennis asked for nominations for the 3-year term on the Prudential Committee that is currently held by Bill. Kandie nominated Bill; Kevin seconded the nomination. Dennis asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none Dennis called for a motion to close nominations and vote. Kyle made a motion that was seconded by Anthony to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one ballot in favor of Bill. Bill was elected to the 3-year term on the Prudential Committee.

Dennis asked if there were any nominations for Moderator for a 1-year term. Kyle nominated Dennis, seconded by Kevin. Dennis asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none Dennis called for a motion to close nominations and vote. Kevin made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one ballot in favor of Dennis. Dennis was elected to the 1-year term for Moderator.

Dennis asked for nominations for two 1-year terms as an Auditor for the Fire District. Kevin nominated Amy Grover for one of the positions. Kandie seconded it. Dennis asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none Dennis called for a motion to close nominations and vote. Kevin made a motion that was seconded by Kandie to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one ballot in favor of Amy. Amy was elected to the 1-year term for Auditor. Dennis asked for nominations for the second 1-year term for Auditor. Kevin nominated Chelsey LaRock, seconded by Kandie. Dennis asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none Dennis called for a motion to close nominations and vote. Kevin made a motion that was seconded by Kandie to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one ballot in favor of Chelsey. Chelsey was elected to the 1-year term for Auditor.

Dennis asked for nominations for Fire Chief 1-year term. Kyle nominated Michael Hughes; Dennis seconded it. Dennis asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none Dennis called for a motion to close nominations and vote. Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one ballot in favor of Michael. Michael was elected to the 1-year term for Fire Chief.

Dennis asked for nominations for Deputy Chief 1-year term. Kyle nominated John Thompson; Anthony seconded it. Dennis asked three times if there were any other

nominations from the floor. Hearing none Dennis called for a motion to close nominations and vote. Kyle made a motion that was seconded by Anthony to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one ballot in favor of John. John was elected to the 1-year term for Deputy Chief.

Dennis asked for nominations for Deputy Chief 1-year term. Kyle nominated Mark Barone; Anthony seconded it. Dennis asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none Dennis called for a motion to close nominations and vote. Kyle made a motion that was seconded by Anthony to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one ballot in favor of Mark. Mark was elected to the 1-year term for Deputy Chief.

**Article 07: Will the Fire District vote to approve the reports as submitted?**

Kyle made a motion that was seconded by Anthony to open Article 07 for discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Dennis then asked if there were any questions.

Hearing no questions, Dennis called for a motion to close discussion and vote. Kyle made a motion that was seconded by Anthony to close discussion and approve Article 07. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Article 08: To act on any legal and necessary business.**

Anthony made a motion that was seconded by Kyle to open Article 08 for discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Dennis then asked if anyone had any other business to address.

Hearing none, Dennis asked for a motion to adjourn. Bill made a motion that was seconded by Kandie to adjourn. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved: 05/04/2022

Marianne McClure  
Clerk/Treasurer