

Wallingford Fire District #1
MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 18, 2026

Called to Order:

Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:04pm with Anthony Petrossi (Tony), Chelsey LaRock and Marianne McClure, the clerk/treasurer, present.

Agenda Additions/Deletions:

The board went over the monthly financials and signed off on them.

Marianne stated that the Citco gas cards we have now for the Citgo gas station in Wallingford no longer work as it is now a Gulf Pay station. Marianne applied for the Gulf Pay cards and should receive them in 7-10 business days. The gas cards are used for the water/sewer plant as well as the Lodge.

Marianne stated that one of the bay doors was not working at the Firehouse. They called Overhead Door to come and fix it. Overhead Door found that it was a bad circuit board that needed to be replaced. They went ahead and replaced it. Total cost was \$560.50.

Visitors:

Missy Whittemore via telephone

Approval for Minutes:

Tony made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 4, 2026, Chelsey seconded it. With no discussion the motion carried (3-0).

Approval for the Fire District Pay Order:

Tony made a motion to approve the pay orders as presented; Chelsey seconded it. With no discussion the motion carried (3-0).

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Missy Whittemore from Highland Estates joined the meeting via telephone to discuss some issues they are having at Highland Estates. Missy wrote a summary of what they need to do. It is as follows:

“Presentation to Wallingford Fire District Prudential Committee 2.18.2026

Highland Water Supply Association has experienced NEW significant water loss in the last six+ months. We have taken exhaustive steps seeking to remedy the loss and locate the leak or leaks, including:

- Multiple inspections with Vermont Rural Water and SOS
- Services of a leak detection specialist consultant located several hours away
- Enlisting homeowners to walk their properties to look for leaks. As a matter of course, every year as part of homeowners meeting in July the Board educates the members on how to detect leaks and each owner to the extent possible (when in town) remains vigilant in helping detect leaks. Also, there are members who walk the lines on a regular basis to try to detect any leaks on all properties as everyone realizes the value of finding and stopping leaks when located.

What we have learned/not learned:

- The replacement of the meter at the east side of the bridge by WFD did not change the measurements, so the leaks cannot be attributed to a defective meter.
- Unfortunately, we have not yet identified the sources of the 2 newest leaks.
- Listening devices strapped on at curb stops do not indicate leaks from homeowners' curb stops to the meters at the respective houses.
- We think that when that valve just west of the bridge is shut off, the water flow to all HWSA homes is shut off.
- However, when a main valve further up Route 140 (between Burke and Whitmore driveways) is shut off, water continues to flow to homes at the end of the line ie, Ozirskys.

What we request:

- Assistance from SOS (understanding a fee is involved) to help us investigate the leaks between the shut off on the west side of the bridge and the meter. We would need to coordinate homeowners' cooperation to report whether water is on/off.
- Any recommendations WFD can offer as avenues for solution.
- Surely WFD is also experiencing water loss for aging pipes?
 - o Are the new meters being installed by WFD expected to help address leaks?
- A reasonable accommodation from WFD while we actively address this crisis – such as quarterly invoices based on average usage for the same quarter year-over-year. We have the billing history to provide these averages.
 - o We have fluctuation in use – third quarter (ie, summer months) are high, second and fourth quarters are average, first quarter (mid-winter) is low.
 - o Allows HWSA and our homeowners to budget
 - o Unfortunately, we will need to bill our members an emergency assessment as we will have exceeded our annual water budget and ultimately our repairs budget.

Other questions:

- In the event we are unable to detect the source of this current leak, we will likely need to start digging up all the lines from end-to-end.
- What contractors would WFD recommend to do that work
- Can you advise us as to methods of financing? • Which banking organizations underwrite loans to municipal organizations?

We are in a very tough spot and deeply appreciate your support in helping us find a solution.”

Missy stated they have had water loss for a long time, and it has spiked within the past 12 months. They have 2 bigger leaks currently. And they have been trying to find the leaks. Kevin stated that the Prudential Committee already forgave some water usage on a previous bill and that he is concerned that the budget wouldn't be met if they were to forgive any more. Missy stated that she would like Simon Operation Services to step up and help.

She stated that Chris Hayes from Simon Operations told her they were too busy to take on a new contract. Kevin recommended Missy call Lane Simon, the owner of the company. Marianne gave Missy his phone number. Missy asked if they needed to dig who they could find to dig. Kevin stated that the Fire District used Phil Baker and recommended him. Also, the Fire District banks with Community Bank and they could contact Community Bank regarding any financing questions and loans. Missy asked if they could work with the Fire District to pay their normal, average usage each quarter and then the balance that is due in excess of that be paid after they can get some financing. Tony said that would have to be tabled so that the Prudential Committee could discuss that.

After Missy hung up the board discussed payment. Tony suggested and made a motion to charge the normal amount on the regular bill and anything more than that to be deferred until July 1st when Highland has their budget meeting. Then, Highland and the Prudential Committee would work on a payment plan and re-evaluate. Chelsey seconded the motion, with no further discussion the motion carried (3-0).

Public Comments:

None

Other Business/Announcements:

The Lodge and General Budget meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 6:30pm in the Fire District office.

Marianne reminded the board that the Fire District office will be closed March 2-9, 2026, as she will be on vacation. If someone has an emergency they will need to contact the board, and if it is water or sewer emergency they will need to contact Chris Hayes. The phone numbers are as follows:

Board members:

Kevin Vaughn – 802-345-1094
Tony Petrossi – 802-342-0829
Chelsey LaRock – 802-236-4430

Water/Sewer emergency:

Chris Hayes – 802-793-9429

Executive Session:

Tony made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue, Chelsey seconded it. Entered executive session at 6:35pm. Tony made a motion to come out of executive session, Chelsey seconded it. Came out of executive session at 6:43pm with no action taken.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 6:15pm in the Fire District office.

Adjournment:

Tony made a motion that the meeting adjourn, Chelsey seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marianne McClure - Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved:

DRAFT