

*Approved @ Amendment
Cronin vs) PC
approved*

HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Date of Meeting:	Thursday, November 16, 2023
Meeting Place:	95 High School Road Extension, Hyannis, MA 02601 and Zoom Meeting and Dial-in Number: 781-368-1701

A quorum being duly present, Chairperson Cronin called the November 16, 2023 Hyannis Fire District Commissioner Regular Meeting to order at 7:00PM

PRESENT: Chairperson Laura Cronin, Commissioners Peter Cross, Victor Skende, and Demetrius Atsalis (via Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Peter Burke, Assistant Captain Mark Storie, Captain Webb, District Clerk Treasurer TK Menesale, Town of Barnstable Tax Assessor Lane Partridge, and HFD Recording Secretary Colleen Murphy

ABSENT: Commissioner Alex Mercado

I. OPEN SESSION:

- Chairperson Cronin took the meeting out of order to move the Classification Meeting; Town of Barnstable Tax Assessor Partridge shared a presentation; next year taxes are based on the previous year's taxes
- This presentation was based on 2022 data; Eversource is the largest property owner in Barnstable; the calculated tax rate percentage has shifted between residential and commercial, as the town has grown to 75% residential; last year's taxes were based on 65% residential; this percentage increase is due to the residential growth in the town; Town of Barnstable Tax Assessor Partridge discussed the taxation options for the HFD
- Town of Barnstable Tax Assessor Partridge stated that residential was 61%, commercial was 38%; historically, the HFD Board of Commissioners has tried to shift more of the tax burden on commercial; commercial business in Hyannis is at vacancy; most of Massachusetts is at a commercial deficiency
- There was discussion around what the different options meant for the average household; last year the taxation was at 4%, there is 75% residential and 25% commercial today in Hyannis; the classification law was put in place by Boston during Governor White's administration, so the prime target is 60%/40% which is the sweet spot for residential savings; the goal is to keep the Tax Classification the same which is 4%

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve a Tax Classification to keep it at 4%, which is the same minimum residential factor of 0.8695 for this year

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

Chairperson Cronin: Aye
Commissioner Cross: Aye
Commissioner Skende: Aye
Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

1. MINUTES:

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve as amended the Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2023

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

Chairperson Cronin: Aye
Commissioner Cross: Aye
Commissioner Skende: Aye
Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve as amended the Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2023

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

- Chairperson Cronin: Aye
- Commissioner Cross: Aye
- Commissioner Skende: Aye
- Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

4. STREET LIGHTS:

- Commissioner Atsalis gave an update on Angell Road; Commissioner Atsalis intends to go back to the streetlight requestor to see what can be done, as the proposed streetlight is not ideally located
- The Kelley Road streetlight is all set, and it is signed off by Commissioner Atsalis

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- Chief Burke followed up on the tax question from the last meeting; Chief Burke was able to clarify the Town of Bamstable's process for the board

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Solar power updated
- Chief Burke stated he is reviewing the contract for the solar power project

7. BUILDING REPORT:

- Chief Burke said we are working on the training towers
- District Clerk-Treasurer Menesale said the BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) for the building project was converted to a Serial State House Note, and we have time to expend the funds for the project.

8. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR

- None

9. CHIEF'S REPORT

- Chief Burke said the call volume is 6973 this year, that is 250 calls under last year's call volume
- Chief Burke spent time with the National Fire Protection Agency in Quincy focusing on some current challenges; lithium batteries use, and its dangers were a main topic; there were also conversations regarding emerging wildfires and the changing nature of districts' emergency needs
- Chief Burke said the Recognition *Ceremony* society event will be held on December 13; Chairperson Cronin will speak
- Chief Burke stated there were Captain meetings this morning; concerning the Calendar 2024, the intent is to have a more consistent Captains' Meeting schedule
- There was Trench Rescue training for the HFD; also FFs are graduating from Bridgewater Fire Academy
- A state-run annual EMS inspection took place last month and the HFD passed this EMS inspection
- The 2024 Needs Assessment Report framework was presented to the board to ensure all areas are covered; Chief Burke asked the commissioners if these categories are what the commissioners are looking for and if there was any edits on this assessment; this assessment will be a broad retrospective; Commissioner Cross said this assessment should always be dynamic and an on-going process to be responsive to this organization's needs; Chief Burke said he will share a draft plan with the commissioners and then finalize this document after the commissioners look at the draft
- Chief Burke said the first draft of the budget will be in February with a final budget by April; Union bargaining will be from January to March 2024; the next meeting will include an Executive Session; Chief Burke will review the Executive session meeting protocol
- Department Chief process will be posted in March; this position is a commissioners' appointment so the commissioners need to select the testing company; there is a 120-day notice requirement so the posting ad will have to be completed by this February to be posted in March
- Commissioner Cross asked about the status of the hull project; Chief Burke said the hull will hopefully be completed by spring 2024

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

Vote on Adjournment of public session:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to Adjourn the public session

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

Chairperson Cronin: Aye

Commissioner Cross: Aye

Commissioner Skende: Aye

Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

Adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Murphy, HFD Recording Secretary

MEETING AGENDA
HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b)
Laura Cronin- Chair

DATE OF MEETING: November 16, 2023
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: 95 High School Road Extension, Hyannis, MA 02601

REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

On **November 16, 2023**, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be conducted AT THE HYANNIS FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. Real-time Public comment can be addressed to the Board utilizing the Zoom link or telephone number and access code listed below:

Link: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/8068284804>
Meeting ID: 806 828 4804
For Public Comment Dial: 1-305-224-1968
Password: Hyannis1!

AGENDA & CALL TO ORDER:

I. OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes
2. Correspondence
3. Public Comment
4. Street Lights
 - a. Angell Road
 - b. Kelley Road
5. Old Business
6. New Business
 - a. Tax Classification Hearing with Tax Assessor, Lane Partridge
7. Building Report
 - a. Solar Panel Project Update
8. Items not reasonably anticipated by Chair
9. Chiefs Report
10. Public Comment

II. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

The Chair reserves the right to call items on the agenda out of order. Items are listed in their approximate order, and items may be reached earlier or later than the posted order. Items listed for executive session may also be discussed in open session. The listing of items contains those items reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Persons interested are advised that in the event that any matter taken up at the meeting that remains unfinished at the close of the meeting may be put off to a continued session of the meeting, in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.