

12-11-26 TK

HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Approved 1/22/26

Date of Meeting:	Thursday, December 11, 2025
Meeting Place:	95 High School Road Extension, Hyannis, MA 02601 and Zoom Meeting Dial-in Number: 1-305-224-1968

A quorum being duly present, Chairperson Cronin called the December 11, 2025 Hyannis Fire District Commissioner Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Laura Cronin, Commissioner Peter Cross and Commissioner Alex Mercado

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Peter Burke; District Clerk-Treasurer TK Menesale; the Town of Barnstable Director of Assessing, John Curran; Hyannis Fire District (HFD) Recording Secretary Colleen Murphy

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Demetrius Atsalis

I. OPEN SESSION:

Chairperson Cronin took the meeting out of order to address item 5a. **New Business: Tax Classification Meeting**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve to address item 5a. **Tax Classification Meeting**

**VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

Vote recorded as follows:

- Chairperson Cronin: Aye
- Commissioner Cross: Aye
- Commissioner Mercado: Aye

- Mr. John Curran, the Town of Barnstable's Director of Assessing, began his FY26 (Fiscal Year 2026) Tax Classification Hearing presentation for the board
- Curran explained there is a range of property types located within the HFD; for example, there are single-family properties; large apartment-complex properties; commercial properties; agricultural-type properties; mixed-use properties; personal properties such as second homes or business properties; and industrial properties, etc. in the HFD
- Curran stated the HFD's real and personal properties combined-total value is of over \$6 billion
- Curran said the assessed-value change rate year-over-year from fiscal year 2025 to fiscal year 2026 for all residential class properties increased about 4.79%, commercial properties increased about 3.10%, industrial properties increased about 1.40%, personal properties increased 5.71%; the combined total value property increase is a 4.44% increase year-over-year; Curran stated the property-sales data from calendar year 2024 historical data is used to set the tax rate for the current year
- Curran said when looking at the tax classification his team looks at the class of property, the valuation of the property and the property levy percentage; Curran told the board that the district's residential stock is over 75% of the levy, the district's commercial stock is 21% of the levy, the district's industrial stock is under 1% of the levy, and the district's personal property is 3% of the levy
- Curran said the district has a total levy of \$16,608,623 million that needs to be raised; if we did a single-tax rate then it would mean that \$2.75 per \$1,000.00 would be used; Curran stated the HFD has never had a single-tax rate
- The split-tax rate would \$2.75 for both property classes; the 2 classes are the residential property and the CIP (i.e. commercial properties, industrial properties and personal properties); Curran recommended the split-tax rate option as it will save the average, everyday homeowner \$305.00
- Curran said the split-tax rate option would mean an average tax bill for a commercial property owner would be \$4,792.13
- Last year the board chose the split-rate tax option
- Curran stated the option for the split-tax rate has a 1.33% rate and the single tax rate is \$2.75 per \$1000.00
- Curran stated the board will need to decide if they want to go with the unified single-tax rate or the split-tax rate for its district
- The board asked Curran questions about his proposed options; the board asked why the tax rate options all increased
- Curran said the levy increased and the property values have increased so the taxes will increase
- Curran stated the Town of Barnstable just voted for a 30% residential exception

**OPEN SESSION (continued):**

- Curran said the district did some good growth from the smaller projects, but the bigger projects will start adding to the overall tax collection
- The board discussed the best tax rate option for the Hyannis Fire District and the impacts on the citizens and businesses due to the proposed tax rate options presented

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the recommendation to stay at the current split-tax rate of 1.39%

**VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

Vote recorded as follows:

- Chairperson Cronin: Aye
- Commissioner Cross: Aye
- Commissioner Mercado: Aye

**1. MINUTES:**

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the minutes of October 23, 2025 as amended

**VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

Vote recorded as follows:

- Chairperson Cronin: Aye
- Commissioner Cross: Aye
- Commissioner Mercado: Aye

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the minutes of November 13, 2025 as amended

**VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

Vote recorded as follows:

- Chairperson Cronin: Aye
- Commissioner Cross: Aye
- Commissioner Mercado: Aye

**2. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Chairperson Cronin stated the board had received a letter from Mr. Richard Gallagher requesting a repeal to pay the charges for his requested printed documents
- Chairperson Cronin said the board's response will remain the same using the same photocopy fees and actual mail expenses that District-Clerk Treasurer provided to Mr. Richard Gallagher regarding the printed documents he requests be mailed to him.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None

**4. STREETLIGHTS:**

**a. Audit:**

- Commissioner Cross asked about the progress of the streetlight audit plan
- Chief Burke said he is working with the Town of Barnstable to find an existing streetlight audit to base the HFD'S streetlight audit process on, specifically how should the HFD's streetlight audit be structured and executed
- The board may have to figure out what the streetlight audit process should be without should an existing streetlight audit process not be available
- Chairperson Cronin said one of the important factors to understand is how much each streetlight costs the district to maintain

**b. West Main:**

- None

**5. OLD BUSINESS: -**

- a. Tax Classification Hearing, Town of Barnstable Assessor (see out of order item 5a. Tax Classification Hearing in Open Session)
- b. Annual Meeting Location: Fire Station:
  - Chairperson Cronin said the Annual Meeting location will be at the Hyannis Fire Station, 95 High School Road Extension, and Chief Burke agrees.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- None

**7. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR:**

- None

**8. CHIEF'S REPORT:**

- Chief Burke stated Captain Thomas Lanman is retiring from his current HFD position; Chief Burke asked the board to approve the promotion of Lieutenant Michael Dalmau to Captain for Fire Prevention and Emergency Planning

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the promotion of Lieutenant Michael Dalmau to Captain for Fire Prevention and Emergency Planning position effective immediately

**VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

Vote recorded as follows:

Chairperson Cronin: Aye  
Commissioner Cross: Aye  
Commissioner Mercado: Aye

- Captain Michael Medeiros has decided to move up his retirement date to possibly July 2026; this position is posted
- Chairperson Cronin asked if there is anything that the board can help with during this hiring process; Chief Burke said right now he is set; Chief Burke said there is a small committee of people who are shadowing Captain Medeiros to learn his process and what his position entails
- Captain Medeiros' position encompasses many different levels within the Hyannis Fire organization, such as administrative, financial, emergency planning and emergency knowledge, etc.; his position is multi-faceted; Captain Medeiros is helping to make the succession process for his position to run as smoothly as possible when he retires
- Chief Burke said Ladder 2 will be delivered on Monday morning; there will be driver training
- Call volume is about 10 calls over last year's call volume
- Chief Burke stated there was a construction incident in the Town of Yarmouth that occurred recently; Chief Burke said the technical rescue teams were involved in this emergency incident in Yarmouth
- Chief Burke stated the board has been very supportive of the formation and continued training of these specialized emergency teams; Chief Burke said Captain Johnathon Talin will cover this incident in more detail for the board
- Captain Talin said the technical rescue team responded to the incident in the Town of Yarmouth on Tuesday, November 18, 2025; Rescue 1 along with Service 1 and Trailer were utilized, FF Michael Herrmann was able to use his FEMA training and apply it to this particular emergency situation
- The board discussed how the rescue worked
- This rescue took about 3.5 hours; the training and planning of the specialized emergency teams in conjunction with the medication administered to the trapped survivor helped save the surviving victim
- Captain Talin mentioned that the training the board approved allowed these specialized rescue teams to have the vital training needed to minimize the loss of life both for the victims and the rescuers; he thanked the board for its continued support

**9. 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 Mercado: Aye

Adjourned at 7:45 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:** **Thursday, December 11, 2025**  
**TIME:** **7:00 PM**  
**PLACE:** **95 High School Road Extension, Hyannis, MA 02601**

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**REMOTE PARTICIPATION:**

On **December 11, 2025**, 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/5042956607>  
Meeting ID: 504 295 6607  
For Public Comment Dial: 1-305-224-1968  
Password: Hyannis1!

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**AGENDA & CALL TO ORDER:**

**I. OPEN SESSION**

1. Minutes
  - a. Outstanding minutes: October 23 & November 13, 2025
2. Correspondence
3. Public Comment
4. Street Lights
  - a. Audit
  - b. West Main Street
5. Old Business
6. New Business
  - a. Tax Classification Hearing, Town of Barnstable Assessor
  - b. Annual Meeting Location: Fire Station
7. Items not reasonably anticipated by Chair
8. Chiefs Report
9. Public Comment
10. Next Meeting Date
  - a. Thursday, January 6, 2026

**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.