

HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

*Appendix
1/23/25
L Cronin*

Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, December 3, 2024
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 December 3, 2024 Hyannis Fire District Commissioner Special Meeting to order at 6:02 PM

PRESENT: Chairperson Laura Cronin, Commissioners Peter Cross, Alex Mercado, Victor Skende, and Demetrius Atsalis

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Peter Burke, District Clerk-Treasurer TK Menesale, Town of Barnstable Tax Assessor John Curran, and HFD Recording Secretary Colleen Murphy

I. OPEN SESSION:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to open the public meeting for the Tax Classification hearing

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to take the special meeting out of order to discuss the Agenda Item 6a. Tax Classification with Tax Assessor

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

- John Curran, Director of Assessing for the Town of Barnstable presented the FY25 Tax Classification hearing; this is a review of the property tax levy shifting options, this hearing is not a meeting to set a tax rate
- The FY25 total valuation of all classes and property is \$5,792,005.00
- Real estate valuation information is based on historical data
- Based on 2023 real estate sales data; there is an improving real estate market; the Director of Assessing Curran presented the different options available to the HFD
- Director of Assessing Curran went through some examples highlighting the impacts of each option on the district and its residents such as looking at a unified rate for an average single-family tax rate at a 6.51 rate, a tax rate of \$2.68 per \$1000.00; this rate would result in a tax bill of \$1700.00 which would be the max rate option
- The board discussed the various options and these options' impacts to the district and its residents
- HFD has usually chosen the split rate to balance the tax needs of residents and commercial
- We are currently at a 1.39 tax rate; the district's real estate composition is split between 74.9% residential and 25% commercial, not including exempt properties like the hospital, etc.
- Last year the district chose the 1.39 tax rate shift option, the average single-family tax bill on average at this rate was \$1500.00

I. OPEN SESSION: (continued)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve to maintain the current 1.39 tax rate

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

- Town of Barnstable Director of Assessing Curran and the board discussed how the Town of Barnstable's TIF (tax increment financing) could impact the district
- Director of Assessing Curran will be ready for Thursday's meeting when he goes before the Town of Barnstable's Town Council

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to close the public hearing for the Tax Classification hearing at 6:22 PM

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

1. MINUTES:

- The November 14, 2024 Meeting minutes will be reviewed in a future meeting

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

4. STREET LIGHTS:

- None

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6a. Tax Classification with Tax Assessor:

- See above Agenda Item 6a. Tax Classification taken out of order

7. BUILDING REPORT:

- None

8. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR:

- The Annual Meeting notice and the 2025 Election and timeframe plan detail review for the Annual Meeting which will be on May 21, 2025 at 7PM
- There are 2 positions open along with the open moderator position; elections will be opened on May 20, 2025 from 3PM to 8PM
- The location will be the same as the 2024 Annual Meeting's location
- Commissioner Cross asked if the Annual Meeting information will be placed on the Town of Barnstable's website
- District Clerk-Treasurer Menesale affirmed that the Annual Meeting information and timeline will be on the Town of Barnstable's website
- Commissioner Skende asked what exact information will be posted for the Annual Meeting information and timeline for the public
- Chairperson Cronin added the Annual Meeting information and timeline will also be on the HFD website

8. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR (continued):

- Chairperson Cronin stated if no one runs for moderator then a moderator can be elected that evening from the floor

- Chairperson Cronin and Commissioner Cross thanked District Clerk-Treasurer Menesale for getting the Annual Meeting timeline and the public notification for the FY26 information to the board

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to accept the Annual Meeting timeline and the public notification for the FY26 Annual Meeting and elections

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

9. CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief Burke said the new FFs were assigned to their shifts, respectively
- 4 of the 6 new hires have been signed off as approved for duty and the onboarding process; Live-burn training will be next week in New Bedford and it is open to all current HFD FFs
- There will be 4 days of door training; the grant received by the HFD covers this training; the door training also covers topics such as how to access different lock types and how to cut different types of doors open with the various power saws available to HFD
- The Local 2172 Union President Jeff Erving has not been sent the evaluation articles for FY25, but in FY26 the evaluation articles will be modified possibly by incorporating a 3-step evaluation process
- Chief Burke reminded the board December 3, 2024 is the 25th anniversary of the Worcester Fire tragedy
- Chief Burke said some of the lessons learned from the Worcester Fire tragedy are understanding how our FFs' air bottles are doing in the midst of managing a fire and being able to notify FFs to back out of managing a fire if the FFs' air is going down
- The board discussed the improvements to FF gear for increased health monitoring during an emergency and the very active fire situations for the HFD in the last few weeks

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
- Commissioner Mercado: Aye

Adjourned at 6:47 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Murphy, HFD Recording Secretary

SPECIAL 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: Tuesday, December 3, 2024
TIME: 6:00 PM
PLACE: 95 High School Road Extension, Hyannis, MA 02601

REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

On **December 3, 2024**, 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!

AGENDA & CALL TO ORDER:

I. OPEN SESSION

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Correspondence
- 3) Public Comment
- 4) Street Lights
- 5) Old Business
- 6) New Business
 - a. Tax Classification Hearing with Tax Assessor
- 7) Building Report
- 8) Items not reasonably anticipated by Chair
- 9) Chiefs Report
- 10) Public Comment

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.