



2022 Annual District Meeting Warrant & Overview

May 24, 2022

**Williamstown Fire District
2022
ANNUAL MEETING**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshires ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Williamstown in the County of Berkshire:
Greetings!

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Williamstown Fire District, qualified to vote in elections and District affairs, to meet at the Williamstown Elementary School Gymnasium, 115 Church Street, in said Williamstown on TUESDAY, the **TWENTY-FOURTH of MAY 2022**, at Four O'clock pm for the following purpose:

1. To bring their votes to the election of Officers for the election of All District Officers as provided in **Article 1**.

The polls will be opened at 4:00 P.M. and may be closed at 7:00 P.M.

And furthermore, to meet in the Williamstown Elementary School Gymnasium, 115 Church Street on the TWENTY-FOURTH of MAY 2022, at Seven Thirty O'clock pm for the following purposes:

To act on all Articles of this warrant, except Article 1, which has been acted upon at the above meeting for the election of officers

ARTICLE 1: To choose the following Officers by Ballot: Two members of the Prudential Committee, each for three-year terms; all said Officers to be voted for on one ballot by marking a cross (X) in the square at the right of the name.

ARTICLE 2: To hear the reports of the Prudential Committee, the Treasurer and any and all committees and act thereon.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2022, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4., and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the District will vote to appropriate from FREE CASH in the Treasury, the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), or any other sum, for a Reserve Fund, provided for in Section 5c, Chapter 40 of the General Laws, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the District will raise the compensation (stipend) paid to each elected member of the Prudential Committee to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) annually to mitigate economic barriers and increase opportunities for a more diverse balance of residents seeking to serve the District on the Prudential Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see what sums of money the District will vote to raise and appropriate to pay for all necessary operational charges and expenses incurred during the ensuing twelve months of the financial year (FY'23) beginning July 1, 2022 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Expense Category	FY 2022	FY 2023
Audit	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
Berkshire County Retirement	\$ 35,544.00	\$ 22,496.00
Communications	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,500.00
Outreach & Recruitment	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Dispatch	\$ 69,405.00	\$ 67,186.00
Education and Training	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 15,000.00
Insurance	\$ 61,800.00	\$ 66,000.00
Legal	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Maintenance & Operation	\$ 48,500.00	\$ 55,000.00
Pay of Firemen	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 45,500.00
Salaries	\$ 106,800.00	\$ 115,300.00
Management Services	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 35,900.00
Utilities	\$ 9,300.00	\$ 8,500.00
Forestry	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 18,500.00
TOTALS	\$ 480,849.00	\$ 492,882.00

ARTICLE 7: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of Seventy Thousand dollars (\$ 70,000.00), or any other sum, to be used in the "Design Fund" by the District for the study, engineering, project management, architectural services, or other costs, including legal and processing fees, associated with the ongoing analysis, planning and design work necessary to prepare for the construction of a new fire house at 562 Main Street, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand dollars (\$120,000.00), or any other sum, for the purchase and fit-up of a replacement, 4 wheel drive pumper Brush Truck, equipped for off road operations with enhanced wildland fire suppression capabilities, for use by the Forest Warden, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the District will vote to appropriate from the STABILIZATON FUND in the Treasury, the sum of Seventy Thousand dollars (\$70,000.00), or any other sum, for the purchase and fit-up of a replacement, 4 X 4, rapid response Command Vehicle for use by the Fire Chief, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand dollars (\$ 10,000.00), or any other sum, to be used for the preparation, application, and matching requirements of any Federal or State grants that the District might apply for or be awarded or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), or any other sum, to be used for the purchase of firefighter turnout gear and personal protective equipment (PPE) for members of the Department or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand dollars (\$60,000.00), or any other sum, to be placed in the Stabilization Fund, created under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 5b of the General Laws, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To authorize the Prudential Committee, on behalf of the District, to petition the General Court of Massachusetts to modify the Districts enabling legislation to; 1) expand the general mission statement of the District and encompass the forestry department as recently transferred from the Town to the District; 2) delete all references to street lighting as this responsibility has been transferred from the District to the Town and; 3) ensure this legislation is rewritten to become a gender-neutral document by replacing gender specific terms with gender-neutral terms, or to take any other action related thereto.

Other Business:

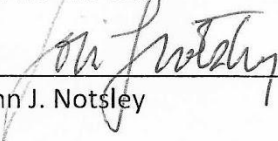
Adjourn:

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting copies thereof, in five or more public places within the Fire District, seven (7) days prior to the time of holding said meeting.

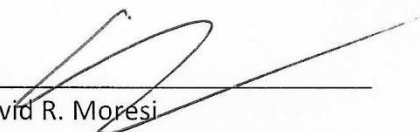
Hereof, fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Clerk of the Fire District on or before the time set for holding said meeting. Given under our hands this Fifth Day of May, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two A.D.

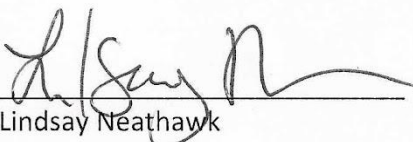
Prudential Committee

APPROVED BY:


John J. Notsley

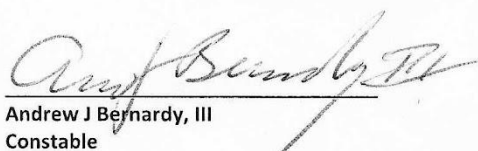

Edward B. Briggs


David R. Moresi


Lindsay Neathawk

May 6, 2022

I hereby certify that I have posted attested copies of the above Warrant, in four public places in the Town of Williamstown and the Post Office, at least seven (7) days before said Election and District Meeting.


Andrew J. Bernardy, III
Constable



Williamstown Fire District

2021 PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Williamstown Fire District is an independent governmental entity created by a 1912 act of the Legislature. The District is governed by a board of five commissioners elected on a rotating basis on the same day as the District's annual meeting. The 2021 annual meeting took place on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. At the annual meeting, the District sets its budget and its tax levy for the following year. All registered voters of Williamstown are entitled and encouraged to attend the annual and monthly meetings at the District firehouse on Water Street or any other location designated by the commissioners and advertised as such.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Edward B. Briggs
Richard C. Reynolds (resigned in October 2021)
David R. Moresi
Lindsay Neathawk
John J. Notsley

Craig A. Pedercini, Chief
Corydon L. Thurston, Treasurer
Sarah Currie, Clerk
34 Water Street
(413) 458-8113

The Williamstown Fire District had an active year. The Prudential Committee met monthly via Zoom for the first half of the year. Starting in June, the committee was able to meet in-person at the fire station and at Town Hall. Prudential Committee meetings are public meetings and community members are welcome to attend. Meeting notices and login information for online meetings can be found on the town calendar. Most meetings are also recorded and can be viewed on WilliNet. The fire district thanks WilliNet for recording and presenting the meetings.

The fire district's annual meeting was held on Tuesday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Williamstown Elementary School. Voting for elected positions within the Williamstown Fire District took place before the annual meeting, from 4 - 7 p.m. David Moresi was elected to the Prudential Committee for a three year term and Lindsay Neathawk was elected to the Prudential Committee for a three year term.

Elected Prudential Committee members and term expirations are David R. Moresi 2024, Edward B. Briggs 2022, Lindsay Neathawk 2024, and John J. Notsley 2023. In October, Richard Reynolds resigned from the committee and John Notsley was elected chair and David Moresi was elected as vice chair. The fire district thanks Richard Reynolds for his service. Appointed officials of the Williamstown Fire District include Corydon L. Thurston, Treasurer, and Sarah Currie, Clerk.

At the annual meeting, the District voted to appropriate \$25,000 for a Reserve Fund. The District also voted to raise and appropriate \$80,000 to be used as a "Design Fund" for the study, engineering, project management, architectural services, and any other costs related with the planning and design work necessary to prepare for the construction of a new fire house on the 562 Main Street property. It was also voted to appropriate, from Free Cash in the Treasury, the sum of \$25,000 for the "Design Fund." The district also voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be placed in the Stabilization Fund.

The fire district continued to plan for a new fire station and the Building Committee and the Community Advisory Committee were active in 2021.

Building Committee

The Building Committee is composed of eight members, five members have positions with the Fire Department, three members are community volunteers, and one member position is open for the town manager. The Building Committee is chaired by Elaine Neely. Other members of the Building Committee include Don Dubendorf, Ryan Housman, Jim Kolesar, David Moresi, John Notsley, Mike Noyes, and Craig Pedercini. The committee thanks former town manager, Jason Hoch, who advised the committee. The town manager position on the committee is currently vacant.

The committee requested proposals for the OPM position (owner's project manager) and received eight proposals. Colliers International was selected.

The next task was to hire an architectural team. Eight proposals were received. The committee selected EDM, a Pittsfield firm. Their team includes Mitchell Associates Architects as fire station architects, Guntflow Associates for civil engineering, and The Green Engineer, to lead our sustainability efforts.

Community Advisory Committee

The Williamstown Fire District's Community Advisory Committee was established in mid-2020 to provide access to and input from the community at large. It comprises seven community members selected to provide a broad range of individual perspectives. While the committee has no authority per se, it can make recommendations to the Fire District as well as support (or not) decisions by the Fire District and/or Prudential Committee.

In 2021, the committee examined several aspects of Fire District operations and was kept apprised of progress on the new fire station. Meeting agenda topics included staffing, call burden, equipment, training and finances. A working group of the committee explored current recruiting strategies and made recommendations to support growing the volunteer firefighters ranks to as much as twice its current size. The Community Advisory Committee is chaired by Jeffrey Thomas. Members of the committee include Markus Burns, Craig Pedercini, Theresa Sawyer, Susan Schneski, and Larry Smallwood. The committee thanks former members Carin DeMayo-Wall, Michael Rodriguez, and Christina Sanborn, for their service.

Outreach

The fire department continued its outreach to the community in 2021. In August, the fire department participated in National Night Out which was sponsored by the Williamstown police department. The event was well attended and a big community hit. Some of the other agencies that participated were the MA State Police, Forest Wardens, NBEMS and NBCC. In October, three events were held. The first was held on October 22. At this event, the fire department teamed up with the Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Equality Committee (DIRE) and hosted the DIRE and Fire Social, which took place in the late afternoon from 4pm to 5:50pm. Community members were encouraged to stop at the station for refreshments and discussion on whatever topic they would like to talk about. There was a good deal of discussion regarding the new station. It was also a good time to meet members of the fire department. Our next event was an

Open House, which was held on Saturday, the 30th, from 11am to 2pm. We had a wonderful turnout of community members, parents, children, and even a few people from out of town stopped in. There was plenty of popcorn and refreshments to go around. Firefighters look forward to educating the public in fire prevention, which is our main priority, but the kids love to sit in the trucks and look at all the equipment. Our last event was held the next day, on Halloween, during trick or treat hours. Given the success of the previous year, firefighters once again positioned themselves at strategic locations in town, where an extremely large number of children are out trick-or-treating, and distributed glow sticks with the hope of ensuring our children enjoyed a safe Halloween.

Staffing

The fire district hired eight new members consisting of six Williams College students and two local residents. In December, Kenneth Campbell, Micah Manary, David Baron, Kendall Rice, David Luongo, Issac Leslie, Julian Sprio, and Simms Berdy were welcomed into the department. Ben Maron and Charles Xu, both Williams College seniors who have been with the department since their freshman and sophomore year, have graduated. Ben is considering a full time career in the fire service out in the central to eastern part of Massachusetts, where he resides. The fire district would like to thank Ben and Charles both for their service and wish them the best in their future endeavors. Currently the district has 25 firefighters and six deputy forest wardens.

Grants

The fire district has been actively applying for grants since 2003. As of the end of 2021, the district has received \$792,563. The fire district was awarded two grants in 2021. In January, the FY 21 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant became available through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Department of Fire Services. The fire district was eligible for \$12, 500, and received \$12,405, for the purchase of an Amkus battery-operated Ram, three piece extension, spare battery, and a charger. The district also purchased two Quattro 4 Gas Detectors. The Amkus Ram, and last year's purchase of a cutter and spreader are all used to perform extrication. The two new gas meters replaced our two aging gas meters, of which, only one was in service.

The fire district also applied for the FY22 Rural and Small Town Development Grant in early June. On October 18, 2021 the fire district received a letter from the Executive Office of Housing & Development, awarding the district four hundred thousand dollars. The grant award is currently being used towards the development of the new fire station. The district also received \$16,600 in Cares Act funding, which was used towards the purchase of computers and tablets for the Prudential Committee, Clerk, Treasurer, Chief and Officers. There are currently four open grants still pending in the amount of \$207,360, one of which is a regional grant.

Apparatus

In May of 2020, the fire district received approval from the voters at its annual district meeting to purchase a tanker truck. On May 21, 2021, the fire district took delivery of their first tanker truck, a Firovac (vacuum truck) that carries 2,600 gallons of water and has a 500 gallon per minute pump. There are two 3,000 gallon fold-a-tanks (collapsible water tanks) mounted on a hydraulic lift on the side of the truck. The tanker (W4) was put into service after everyone received the appropriate training. Since then, W4 has been on multiple calls including mutual aid to North Adams and Pownal, VT.

Training

Training in 2021 has seen some normalcy, although with Covid-19 still in the picture, the department still uses precautions whenever we are together. Masks are still required at all calls and in the fire station. Mandatory training was achieved this year. Firefighters were able to complete their hazardous material refresher and stepped up their medical training with the following classes: CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, Trauma Response and Assessment and ICS Mass Casualty Incidents. The department has also trained in

O2 Therapy and the administering of Narcan and now carries both on their apparatus. Other types of training the department has done include: tower operations, tanker operations/pumping, vehicle extrication, vehicle stabilization, SCBA search and rescue, tanker shuttle operations, ice water rescue awareness, ladders, radio communications, hydrants and advancing hoselines. Firefighters continue to take training online, such as: IS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System, IS 200 Basic Command System for Initial Response, IS 700 Introduction to the National Incident Management System and IS 800 National Response Framework, An Introduction. The Department of Fire Services also started classes back up and a few of our firefighters took the following classes: Vehicle Extrication, Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and one firefighter completed Fire Prevention Officer Level 1.

Noteworthy call

On Friday May 15th, late in the afternoon, the Fire Department responded with the Forest Warden's department to a report of smoke in the area of Henderson Road. Members of both departments searched the area and eventually located a fire on East Mountain. Several fire departments from North County, Pownal, VT, Clarksburg, North Adams, Hancock, New Ashford and the Adams Forest Wardens were called for mutual aid assistance. DCR, Department of Conservation and Recreation, was also notified and responded that evening. Firefighters spent the next 4-5 hours trying to get to the head of the fire and stop it from extending up the mountain, but were unsuccessful. As darkness set in, all firefighters were pulled off the mountain for safety reasons. Fire Officers regrouped that evening at the Williamstown fire station to establish a plan for the next day. A strategy was put together and was implemented the next morning at 6 a.m. Additional resources had to be brought in as the fire continued out of control and into the Clarksburg State Forest. In midafternoon, due to high winds, all firefighters were pulled out of the wood, again for safety reasons. By this time the East Mountain fire was getting statewide recognition and support from other agencies, such as the Department of Fire Services, MEMA, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Governor's office.

Day three began at 6:30 a.m. The plan was for firefighters to split into two groups and attack the fire from two directions. While firefighters hiked back up the mountain and continued battling the blaze, another plan was being implemented. Around 12:30 p.m., the first of two Mass State Police Air Wings arrived and started water drop operations. The water drops were effective in suppressing the fire and slowed it down, giving the firefighters on the ground a chance to start gaining control. By the end of day three, the fire was approximately 60 percent contained.

Day four began at 7:00 a.m. and was much like day three, boots on the mountain and water drops. The Massachusetts State Police provided one Air Wing and the National Guard provided a Blackhawk helicopter. By the end of the day, the fire was still burning but was under control. The operations were downsized to a handful of firefighters and DCR staff over the next four days before the fire was declared 100 percent extinguished.

The East Mountain fire consumed 947 acres and involved over 2 dozen departments and agencies. Over 300 firefighters and operational staff battled the fire. Members of the Williamstown Forestry Department spent an additional 3 days assisting DCR with mopping up the fire. This was the largest wildland fire in Massachusetts since the 1999 Tekoa Mountain fire in Russell, MA, which burned 1,100 acres.

Another extraordinary thing happened during that historic fire. A town resident posted on social media a request for donations of water and food to help out the firefighters while they were fighting the fire. The request was to drop off any donated supplies to this resident's home. A table was placed in the front yard next to the road as a drop off point. The outpouring of support from the Williamstown Community was unbelievable. As word got around on social media, within a short span of time, dozens of cases of water, boxes of snacks and food were dropped off at the resident's home. Over the next few days, people, restaurants and businesses from Williamstown and our surrounding communities, including Pownal, VT,

were making sandwiches and donating drinks to support the firefighters. Others were making monetary donations to purchase supplies. This act of kindness continued to balloon into such an incredible amount of donations that a larger vehicle was necessary. The Sand Springs Water Company donated a van for the three days of fire operations. The van was used to transport all the liquid and food supplies to multiple drop off points in Williamstown, North Adams and Clarksburg. A big thank you to Jennifer and Shuan for their generous contribution. The fire district recognizes and extends their heartfelt appreciation to Andi Bryant for her time and for orchestrating all of this. Who knew what one social media post would turn into? The district also extends its thanks to past Prudential Committee Chair, Richard Reynolds, for the generous donation of his time and effort that went into planning and transporting the liquid refreshments and food supplies to all the operations sites. Great job, both of you! Finally, the Williamstown Fire District, thanks the entire Williamstown community for not only their support during the East Mountain fire but for their continued support throughout the year of 2021.

Mutual Aid

The fire district provided mutual aid on ten different occasions. The department responded to four incidents in North Adams, two of which were structure fires and the other a scrap yard fire that lasted two days. The first call was in January on Greylock Avenue. Williamstown responded with W2, a crew of four, and Car 1. They were assigned to search three adjacent apartments for occupants and laying a water supply line 600 feet from a hydrant two streets away to North Adams Engine 3. Once the fire was under control, Williamstown broke down the supply line and remained on scene to respond to other calls in the City of North Adams. While standing by, W2 was dispatched to Brayton Hill apartments for a report of a gas odor in a home. Berkshire Gas was contacted and responded to the scene. By the end of the call, the gas to a kitchen stove was turned off until the appliance could be repaired and was safe to use.

A large fire at Apkins Scrap Yard on State Street brought multiple fire departments to North Adams, including Williamstown. W2 and a crew supplied North Adams ladder truck with water for several hours. Williamstown's Car 1 was also involved in setting up a tanker water supply with other responding departments. The fire continued through the night and into the next day. W2 and a fresh crew spent the second day standing by in the North Adams station covering the city. The fourth call to North Adams was a small building fire on Hunter Foundry Road. Tanker W4 responded to its first call and supplied water to North Adams Engine 3.

Williamstown responded to Pownal, VT on four occasions, of which, three were reported as structure fires. The first call came in January and was reported as a fully involved structure on Stateline Drive. The Pownal Fire department called Williamstown immediately for mutual aid and they responded with W2 and a crew of three. In the meantime, a Williamstown fire officer who happened to be in Vermont on Stateline Drive responded directly to the address and was the first firefighter to arrive on scene. Reporting nothing showing from the exterior, the officer then spoke with the homeowner who stated there was smoke in the house and flames were coming from the pellet stove chimney. Entering the home the officer found smoke conditions but no flames visible and reported his findings to the responding Pownal firefighters via radio. The fire was downsized to a pellet stove issue and once Pownal firefighters were on scene, they cleared W2 and its crew. There were two other mutual aid structure fire calls to Pownal where Williamstown was requested to the scene, and while en route, was redirected to Pownal's station to cover the town for other calls.

Williamstown responded Mutual Aid to Pownal VT for a Hazardous Material spill in early December. The Pownal fire department was looking for assistance with a tanker truck parked across the road from the Stewarts Convenience store that was leaking liquid Aluminum Sulfate. The tanker was leaking a fairly large amount of liquid onto the roadway and it was running across the street to a catch basin. Pownal Fire was looking for diking material and technical support. The truck was from the Holland Company who sent a few representatives to assist with the spill. Williamstown responded with engine

W1 and a crew. The road was closed down at the Simonds Road/Sand Spring intersection by the Williamstown Police Department. Williamstown W1 blocked the road from traffic once they were on scene in Pownal. Vermont agencies were not the only ones that responded that morning. The Williamstown Fire Chief was already out checking on an unknown trail of fluid which was reported by Williamstown Police officer Skorupski. The trail of fluid started in North Adams and entered Williamstown in the westbound lane. It continued to the intersection of Routes 2 & 7 and then headed North on 7 all the way into Pownal where the tanker was discovered leaking. Officials in North Adams reported the spill started at the intersection of State St. & Main Street adjacent to the city hall and headed up over the overpass on route 2 and into Williamstown. Other agencies that were called to assist with the spill in Williamstown, North Adams, and Pownal were Berkshire County Hazmat Team, Mass DEP, MEMA, North Adams Fire, Northern Berkshire REPC, North Adams DPW and the Williamstown DPW. The incident lasted approximately six hours. Once the roadway was cleaned up in Pownal, Route 7 was opened back up to traffic. The DPW's from North Adams and Williamstown cleaned up the roads in their own city and town.

Other calls of interest

The fire department responded to 10 calls for gas odors throughout the year, of which seven went unfounded, while three were confirmed leaks. During a gas odor/leak call, the fire department has the responsibility of identifying the extent of the hazard and managing it until Berkshire Gas personnel arrive. The Berkshire Gas Company in each case has always been quick to respond and has been great to work with. There were 122 activated fire alarms, 13 of those calls were for assistance with fire alarm issues. Chief Officers responded to 16 carbon monoxide alarms of which 3 had an actual CO issue in the residence. In most cases either the CO sensor in the detector had expired or the battery was low. The department responded to 14 motor vehicle accidents, of which three had entrapment and the fire department had to extricate the occupants out of the vehicle. Firefighters responded to the Fairfield Inn on two occasions for a stalled elevator. Two people were rescued the first time and nine on the second incident.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Tips

In many cases, smoke detectors can be activated by dust. Other detectors were found to have low batteries or the service life of the detector expired. Proper upkeep and maintenance can prevent false alarms, so check the devices manual for instructions on how to maintain it. The fire department is available and willing to visit any residence to answer questions regarding smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

241 Calls:

Structure Fires - 3, Chimney Fires - 1, Dumpster Fires - 2, Passenger Vehicle Fire – 2, Electrical Fires – 2, Gasoline Spills/Leaks – 4, Brush Fire – 1, Forest Fire – 1, Electrical Burning Odor Issues – 2, Electrical/Transformer/Pole/Tree/Wires down – 3, Motor Vehicle Accidents – 14, Natural/Propane Gas Odor/Leaks – 10, Stalled Elevators – 2, Water Issues/Broken Pipes/Flooding Basements – 8, Carbon Monoxide Alarms – 19, Rescues - 2, Activated Fire Alarms Including Sprinkler Systems – 124, Assisted Resident's with Alarm System – 10, Smoke/Good Intent Calls – 14, Service Calls – 2 (assisted resident, assisted WPD), Assisted NBEMS – 7, Mutual Aid Calls: Structure Fires – 6 (3 Pownal VT, 2 North Adams and 1 Clarksburg), Scrap Yard Fire (North Adams 2 days), Hazardous Material Spill, (Pownal Vt), Called to Hancock but canceled.

Chief Pedercini conducted regular inspections of public and private schools, restaurants, theaters, motels, inns and nursing homes. Building construction continues to keep the fire department busy with plan reviews and inspections. The fire chief and building commissioner continue to work closely together throughout the year while performing inspections of fire alarms, sprinkler systems and liquor license renewals.

230 permits were issued for smoke/co detectors, liquid propane gas, tank removals, oil burners, tank truck inspection, fire protection system, fuel tank storage, hot works, fireworks, hood suppression systems, floor refinishing and fire reports.

Forest Warden's Report

For the year of 2021, the Forest Warden's Department issued Town burning permits from January 15th through May 1st as well as Agricultural permits year-round. The season was somewhat dry but we were able to issue permits most days. In total, the department issued 270 permits and responded to 14 calls. The department answered 49 phone calls regarding outdoor burning. There were four fires in town, three of which were small and quickly extinguished. The other fire was one for the record books.

On Friday May 15th, late in the afternoon, the Williamstown Forest Warden's Department and the Fire Department responded to a report of smoke sighted in the area of Henderson Road. Members of both departments searched the area and eventually located a fire on East Mountain. The forestry and fire department members along with a few mutual aid departments spent 4-5 hours trying to extinguish the fire, to no avail. Once the sun went down and darkness set in, all resources were pulled off the mountain for safety reasons.

The East Mountain fire turned into a four day event consuming 947 acres and involved over two dozen departments and agencies. Members of the Williamstown Forestry Department spent an additional three days assisting DCR, Department of Conservation and Recreation with mopping up the fire. This was the largest wildland fire in Massachusetts since the 1999 Tekoa Mountain fire in Russell, MA, which burned 1,100 acres.

The department also responded to six calls that were a combination of illegal outside fires and/or smoke complaints. We also responded to a lost hiker call, a deer that fell through the ice on a pond, and two Mutual Aid fire calls. The Deputy Warden's hiked the RRR trail one night in search of two lost hikers and once found, helped them out of the woods. The deer was able to get out of the water on its own, so no intervention was required. The mutual aid calls were to Pownal and Stamford, VT, to assist them with their out of control fires.

The department received the VFA Grant for 2021 which is a 50-50 grant in the amount of \$2076.42. We purchased 4 tires for Brush 2 (Dodge), 4 tires for Brush 3 (Ranger 6x6), two tires and chains for brush 4 (Honda 4 Wheeler).

The Forest Warden's Department trains monthly in fire suppression and vehicle maintenance. Everyone also recertified in First Responder and CPR/AED. This year all of the Deputy Wardens took the Ice Water Rescue class with the fire department and are at the Awareness level at this time.

The department participated in the 4th of July parade and assisted the fire department with the 4th of July fireworks. In August, the Williamstown police department hosted National Night Out, which we also attended.

2021 Report of the Williamstown Fire District Treasurer:

Williamstown Fire District

FY 2021

July 1, 2020

RECEIPTS:

Town of Williamstown (Taxes collected)	\$542,445		92.83%
Williams College	\$29,802		5.10%
Inspection Fees	\$7,180		1.23%
Interest Income	\$2,337		0.40%
Miscellaneous	\$400		0.07%
Donations	\$2,195	\$584,359	0.38%
		\$584,359	

EXPENSES

Audit	\$8,000		1.64%
Berkshire County Retirement	\$33,009		6.78%
Communications	\$11,766		2.42%
Debt Service	\$0		0.00%
Dispatch	\$60,194		12.37%
Education and Training	\$5,444		1.12%
Insurance	\$50,390		10.36%
Legal	\$13,715		2.82%
Maintenance & Operation	\$48,393		9.95%
Pay of Firemen	\$41,584		8.55%
Salaries	\$103,668		21.31%
Services & Supplies	\$19,350		3.98%
Street Lighting	\$85,196		17.51%
Utilities	\$5,411		1.11%
Water Rents	\$1,650		0.34%
Total Operations Article 5		(\$487,770)	
Other Articles			
Stabilization Article 7 FY '21	\$50,000		
Grant Article 8 FY '18	\$157		
Communication Article 8 FY '18	\$4,900		
Main St Property Article 10 FY '20	\$10,394		

(\$65,451)

(\$553,221)

Income / Expense	NET Balance	June 30, 2021	\$31,138
Stabilization Fund	July 1, 2020	\$697,217	
Additions		\$50,000	
Tanker Truck		(\$379,378)	
Interest		\$3,259	
Fund Balance	June 30, 2021	\$371,098	

Corydon L Thurston, Treasurer

**Subject to Audit Adjustment*