



**Randolph Fire District #1
Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday May 21, 2024**

Attending: John Lens, Dana Dean, John Doss, Dave Farnham, Trudy DeFlorio, Carol Doss, Barbara Lens, Robert Bradford, Meredith LaLumia, Patricia Beavers on behalf of P2 Environmental

The Annual Meeting convened at the Red School House on the VTSU campus. John Lens, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Article 1: To elect a clerk for a term of one year – John Lens asked for the names of candidates for the position of Clerk. There was a discussion of the names of potential candidates for the position, but none were available to confirm their willingness to perform said duties. It was decided the Prudential Committee will continue to look for a candidate to fill the position and will appoint one at a later date.

Article 2: To hear and act on reports of the officers (clerk, treasurer, engineer) – Trudy DeFlorio handed in the collection of minutes from the previous year’s meetings along with the recorder.

Dave Farnham handed in a copy of his report which will be available for review and discussion.

No report from John Lens.

Bob DiLeo spoke on behalf of Bill DeFlorio who was absent due to illness and indicated the district cash reserves had increased by \$34,000, and the assets are up to \$167,000.

Article 3: To elect a member of the Prudential Committee for a term of three years – A motion was made by Dana Dean to nominate Meredith LaLumia for the Prudential Committee, Second by Dave Farnham. Motion approved unanimously.

Article 4: To elect a Treasurer for a term of one year – a motion was made by Dave Farnham to nominate Bob Bradford as Treasurer, Second by John Doss. Motion approved unanimously. A discussion followed the election of the new treasurer regarding the service the district has received from Bill DeFlorio. Bill has served in numerous capacities for the district for over 50 years. His latest service comes as Treasurer of which everyone was grateful for the work he has done. It was decided the pump house building would be named in honor of Bill for his efforts to keep us afloat.

Article 5: To elect a Collector of Rents and Taxes for a term of one year – Motion was made by Dana Dean to nominate Dan LaLumia to the position of Collector of Rents and Taxes, Second by Dave Farnham. Motion approved unanimously.

Article 6: To elect three auditors for a term of one year. – The names of Dan LaLumia and Lee Renner were nominated by Dave Farham, Second by John Doss. Motion approved unanimously. The Prudential Committee will look for an additional member prior to the next Annual Meeting.

Article 7: To elect an engineer for a term of one year – Dana Dean nominated Dave Farnham for the position of Engineer, Second by John Doss. Motion approved unanimously.

Article 8: To vote a tax – Motion made by Dana Dean regarding an increase from .04/\$100 of valuation to .05/\$100 of valuation for the upcoming year. Second by Dave Farnham.

Discussion:

There were questions from the floor asking about the justification for raising the rate. It was indicated that the need to raise the rate it to enable the district to begin the planning process to replace water lines that have been in existence for 80 years. The process would require preliminary engineering reports, development of RFP's, etc. Another person asked what property valuation will the new tax rate be based on. As the Town of Randolph is currently going through a town-wide reappraisal, would the new values be used or the existing? No news has been received regarding the completion of the reappraisal and there is a considerable appeals process before the new values can be adopted so most likely it will be based on the current valuations.

The vote was called after the floor discussion ended. Motion approved unanimously.

Article 9: To do any other business as may be appropriate – Since Johns Lens has decided to resign his position of Prudential Committee member and had a year remaining on his term, the members present voted to fill the vacancy. A nomination was made by Dana Dean to elect Dave Farnham to fill the remaining term expiring in 2026, second by John Doss. Motion approved unanimously.

Dana Dean talked about some issues which need to be addressed. The primary concern is the security of the water supply. It has been suggested we need to put up a fence around the water supply. Dave Farham has received some estimates of \$5-\$10 k to install a 6' high fence with barbed wire at the top. John Lens asked for Patricia Beavers thoughts on the idea. Pat indicated she felt there could be liability issues with the barbed wire topping the fence. She also felt it was about time we began to look into other options such as intrusion systems which would provide alerts if the inappropriate information was entered into the system. There was discussion about the recent break-ins in the Center and previous threats to the water system. The Prudential Committee will work with P2 Environmental to identify some solutions.

The new Prudential Committee is made up of:

Dana Dean, Chair 2026
Dave Farnham, 2025
Meredith LaLumia, 2027

Respectfully submitted,

Dana A Dean, Chair