

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING (VIRTUAL BY ZOOM)
October 24, 2022**

Present: Charles Eager, Clerk, Ray Pirrone, Treasurer, Seth Burdick, Prudential Committee, Fran Parks, Prudential Committee and Tom Hoppensteadt, Board of Water Commissioners.

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM on October 24, 2022 remotely using the Zoom app.

Fran Parks led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes as amended of the September 26, 2022 meeting.

The Treasurer reports after the first quarter of Fiscal year 2023 the budget is slightly above projection but below last year amounts. Expenditures likewise are above projection but are due to annual expenses paid in the first quarter. Fran Parks asked the Treasurer why there was a large increase in telephone costs. The Treasurer did not have an answer but would look into it and get to her. Fran Parks asked if a date had been set for the Classification Hearing with the Town Assessor. The Treasurer reported no date had been set yet. Fran Parks also asked about the Ethic Commission's records management of the Ethic exam required to be taken ever two years. The Treasurer support joining the Ethic Commission's system.

Fran Parks reports on an executive session open meeting law complaint. The Attorney General found for the complaint because the subject matter wasn't proper for executive session.

Freedom Hall is still busy. Seth asked what we charge for the use of the hall. Non-profit are free but Fran does ask for them to make a donation. If you are putting on an event where your making money then residents pay \$50.00 and nonresident pay \$100.00. Fran went on to say since the beginning of the pandemic an AA group has been using the Hall for free and she was wondering if she should ask the group for a donation to cover the cost for heat and lights. Seth thought that was fair. Seth said he brought up the issue because he was unsure if the money paid covered the upkeep of the building. Fran said no but she was hesitant charges the residents anymore because they are already paying upkeep through taxes.

Tom Hoppensteadt has been contacted by employees of the Water Department regarding a personnel issue. He doesn't know if the matter should go into executive session. It was decided to go forward in open session. Tom said the problem is about the timing of the account payable warrants being received by the Finance Department. He thinks maybe a change in the process might cure the problem. The Water Commissioners are signing the warrant weekly on their portal and have no problem doing so. He suggests the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer could be given access to the portal and would have their timely warrants. Right now, the Water Commissioners sign-off in the portal and it goes back to the Water Department to be sent to the Finance Department. This seems to be where there is a workflow problem. This has resulted in emails be sent causing some hard feeling. This where the Water Department problem stems from. It was decided instead of going into executive session they would

have a workflow discussion with Tom, the Treasurer, Seth Burdick and the Water Superintendent at Freedom Hall on November 1st at 4 PM.

Jim Dannhauser reported on meeting with Dave Anthony of the Town of Barnstable. There is now a schedule on how the transfer is to proceed. First, the Town will need the Planning Department to approve the lot because there is not enough frontage to be a legally buildable lot. They are looking at doing this by approval not required service. Target for this is sometime in November and December. The transfer and the conservation restriction would go to the Town Council's two January meetings.

There were discussions on the oil tank. The District's representatives suggested emptying the tank and do soil boring down gradient of the tank which would confirm the present or absence of any contamination. If no contamination then the transaction could go forward without the Town removing the tank. There was discussion about getting insurance to cover the tank but there wasn't reasonable way of getting insurance to protect from any liability exposure. It out the District's control now. There have been schedules before that have not been met but hopefully this one will. There was no explanation why there was no contact from June to October. Jim Dannhauser said he talked with Any Clyburn and the Town does want to proceed with this time and make the transfer happen.

The next meeting is December 28, 2020.

Motion made by Seth Burdick to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fran Parks and passes.