

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING (VIRTUAL BY ZOOM)
FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

Present: Charles Eager, Clerk, Ray Pirrone, Treasurer, Seth Burdick, Prudential Committee, Fran Parks, Prudential Committee and Mark Lynch, Prudential Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM on February 27, 2023 remotely using the Zoom app.

Fran Parks led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting.

The Water Department report on their budget for the current year. The Water Superintendent noted that most the expenses were on budget or below except for a few items. Truck maintenance and chemicals will probably go over budget but will be the department will cover it within the overall budget. He said on the Special Appropriations there should be some funds left over from the test wells and electrical upgrades.

The revenues were running behind estimates until the January billing which was over estimated by almost four hundred fifty thousand dollars. Now they expect to have a surplus for the year. Fran Parks suggested putting a statement on the bill to contact the Water Department if you have a problem paying the bill. Superintendent Wiseman said they do a hardship policy in place for people having trouble paying bills. The Water Department will put them on a payment plan.

Up next the Fire Chief to report on the Fire Department budget. The Chief states that the Fire Department is pretty much in line with a few abnormalities. Permanent Overtime which was cut in half a few years ago is one area over budget. Other Fulltime Wages is over. The Chief expects Maintenance Vehicles will go over. Fire Prevention Education is also overbudget. This is providing education to the public. Overall, the Fire Department is slightly under budget for expenses. Mark Lynch asked about the expenditure for the new ambulance and whether the Chief thought the money appropriated would cover the cover. He said it wouldn't and he would need another \$45,000.00 for a total of \$410,000.

Revenues are generated by ambulance runs and the revenues are running slightly ahead of budget.

Beth Johnson, President of the Santuit and Cotuit Historical Society addressed the Prudential Committee seeking their support by supporting the committee's effort to receive a yearly appropriation from the taxpayers similar to the Cotuit Library. The Historical Society is looking to put an article in the Fire District's Annual District Meeting to help fund the Society. After Ms. Johnson's presentation Seth Burdick asked if there would have to be a change to the District's enabling legislation. It was agreed there would have to be a change to allow any appropriation to the Historical Society. The first step is for the Society to go to the Legislature to have the District's enabling legislation changed to allow this appropriation. The Prudential Committee didn't offer their support of any article in the Warrant.

The Treasurer reported that the FY 2022 Audit Report should be coming out soon. He then talked about the Annual Disclosure Report. He reported he passed out information about the contingent liabilities today. He also put out a disclosure statement about the potential liability of the transfer of the school property that will go into the Disclosure Report.

The Treasurer reported the District is in good financial position. Revenues are at 63% over 58% of the year. It is primarily the result of water revenues received and coming in and ambulance billings. Overall expenditures are well below target when the one-time expenditures are removed.

The Treasurer said today he invested \$600,000 into 60-day CDs at Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod at 4.75% and like amount into 4-week Treasury Notes at Cape Cod Five at 4%. He reported he will borrowing \$150,000 before the end of the year for the stretcher and Water Department truck. In fiscal 24 he will borrow the rest of the money needed for the ambulance purchase. He would borrow the whole amount now but there are limitations on how long you can hold onto debt.

Fran Parks reported to the best of her knowledge Zoom Meetings will end at the end of March. She requests to purchase an Owl Recording System to try out at the April Meeting at Freedom Hall. **Motion made and seconded passed unanimously to purchase an Owl Recording System.** She also reports the chairs are falling apart. Seth and Mark suggest buying the chairs over a two-year period.

Mark Lynch reports on the School Committee. There is no activity going on with the Town on this project. The Town other priorities taking up their time so everything else has been put on hold. Mark also reported the By-law Committee is scheduled to meet on March 15th.

Seth reports the Policy Advisory Committee meeting has not been set up yet but will be soon.

Fran said she would like to dedicate the Annual Report to Laurie Hadley's memory. The rest of the Committee had no objections.

Next Meeting will be March 27, 2023

Motion made by Mark Lynch to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Seth Burdick and passes unanimously.