

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING (VIRTUAL BY ZOOM)
MAY 22, 2023**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Fran Parks on May 22, 2023 at Freedom Hall, 976 Main Street, Cotuit.

Fran Parks led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board of Water Commissioners Chairman Thomas Hoppensteadt first requested if any other if any other commissioner were present virtually. He was told Mark Robinson was. He convened the Board of Water Commissioners. He said the reason for his appearance was to request the Prudential Committee reconsider their recommendation of the Water Department budget. He defended the raises given to the employees of the Water Department.

Mark Robinson adds his support to Chairman Hoppensteadt. The raises are being used to help retain the employees for the District.

Mark Lynch says he has only praise for the Water Department personnel and the work they do for the District. Mark said, all that being said there comes a time when an increase is too much. He believes we come to that number. It is not just the 13% this year, it's the 10% last year and the 7% the year before. He doesn't believe the COLA should be based on the Social Security increase of 8.7% but more toward what the federal employees receive of 4.6%.

Seth Burdick says he believes its in the hands of the voters and that they are at an impasse.

Fran Parks asks about our money they receive and says she believes the merit increases should be bonuses and not add on to their salary.

A former Water Commissioner and member of the public said he believe the 8.7% COLA is too much. He believes a study should be done and the appropriate amount of pay for the water employees determined. As Fran Parks pointed out the merit pay should be a bonus for a good job not part of their ongoing salary.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the April minutes as amended was passed unanimously. The amended wording was the recorder motherboard could not be fixed.

The Treasurer reports the District is at 83% of the year. Revenues are substantially ahead of budget. This is mostly due to the December's excess usage and solar revenues. Tax collections are slightly below budget. All over revenues is ahead of budget. He said after talking with the Chief he reconciled the salary question he had last month regarding the Fire Department's budget. The overtime salary instead of exceeding the budget will below budget.

Expenditures are at or below budget for the year.

Special Articles are under spent.

\$150,000 BAN was successful sold.

Funds invested in short term T-Bills and CDs are earning good interest and are readily available.

Fran Parks reports the new tables for Freedom have arrived. The new recorder is in place for the Annual Meeting.

Fran next goes over the Warrant with Seth and assigns who will make the motions for each of the articles.

Seth Burdick said the Policy Advisory Committee met and he said they talked about suggestions previously made such as term limits for Committee Chairs. Also, they talked about a policy for the Policy Advisory Committee to meet more often.

Fran Parks asked if there was any public comment. Kathryn McMurray asked consideration could be given to time of the meeting. She said being a parent the 7:30 PM timeframe is difficult for her to attend.

John Gardner had a couple of questions and some comments. He asked if there would be someone from the Prudential Committee who would answer a question about the Water Department budget recommendation? The committee answered Mark Lynch would reply. He said when he goes to the Fire District website Ken Molloy is still listed as Moderator is there way to get it changed? The committee answered yes. Mr. Gardner said he has contacted the local Boy Scout Troop to lead the Pledge of Allegiance but has not heard back yet. Mr. Gardner also said he has a form to write down any proposed amendment to the articles to make it easier. He said last year an individual wanted to make an amendment but once he heard he had to do it in writing he decided against doing it.

Next Meeting will be June 26, 2023

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