

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT  
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
FREEDOM HALL  
978 MAIN STREET  
COTUIT, MA 02635  
AUGUST 28, 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 by Fran Parks on August 28, 2023 at Freedom Hall, 976 Main Street, Cotuit.

Fran Parks led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no public comment at this time.

Minutes will be delayed.

The Treasurer reported overall revenues for the FY 23 exceeded budget. He did point out that tax collections were under budget. The unpaid taxes would carryover to FY 24 as a receivable. Expenses for the District overall were at or under budget for the year. He did point out due to the way the District categorizes expenses the Fire Department wages and salaries were over budget although the overall expenses were under budget. The same thing happened with Freedom Hall wages. These two items will be reportable on the recap and will affect free cash. The District isn't allowed to shift surplus from one category to make up for a deficit in another. If the wording of the article was to vote the budget as a whole this wouldn't happen. Any change in the wording of the Article would require a By-law change.

The Treasurer then went over the Special Articles and everything was going well. The Investment income is up for the year due to placing idle funds into investment accounts and their rates increasing.

The treasurer also reported all insurances are going up between 5 and 7 percent except health which is going up 4 percent.

Fran Parks reported Freedom Hall smoke detectors were fixed at a cost of \$350.00. She also reported the parking lines need attention due to fading.

Fran Parks reported that Gerry is available to do the recording of the meeting on the Cotuit School use, Mark Boudreau will attend and the pot-o-potties are set to go at the school. Mark Lynch reported the enabling legislation only allows the property be used by Prudential Committee, Fire Department, and Water Department or by lease to a non-profit. Mark said we are trying to get out as much notice of the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as possible with the help of the Civic Association. Also proposing a use for the property should be able to provide a concrete proposal. Transfer of the property has not occurred yet because the Town has not removed the oil tank. Once the oil tank is removed and the area gets a clean bill of health then the transfer will take place. The Treasurer will add the school to the District's liability

and property insurance. Fran Parks wants the meeting to be informational not a Special Meeting to make sure all residents of Cotuit can be involved not just voters. She also went over some logistic issues.

John Gardner had some questions about his part in the meeting. His understanding is there will be an agenda, non-profits will be able to make a presentation and is there a time limit. The Prudential Committee yes to the agenda and non-profit presentations. There will be a 10-minute limitation on presentations. For public comments there will be a 5-minute initial comment and 2 minutes follow up after everyone else has had a chance. Prudential Committee said yes. Finally, there will be no vote that night the meeting is just to share information. Prudential committee said yes. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM on August 15, 2023.

Mark Lynch brought up a question asked about how much money is currently available for the school. It appears there is \$42,200 plus \$207,500 which some of it may be subject to Attorney General appeal.

It was asked what uses for the building have been proposed. Mark Lynch said demolition of the building and return to green space, renovate the building use as a Fire Station, demo the building and build a new Fire Station, potential water treatment site if needed and finally rehabbing the building and using it for a community center. The primary purpose of the acquisition of the property was to protect the water supply.

Next Meeting is August 22, 2023.

**Motion made by to adjourn the meeting, seconded and passes unanimously.**