

# REPORT OF THE CLERK

## ANNUAL ELECTION AND DISTRICT MEETING

May 30 and 31, 2023

In accordance with the foregoing notice and the by-laws of the District, the annual election of the Cotuit Fire District was held at the Freedom Hall, Main Street, Cotuit, on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, between the hours of four o'clock and eight o'clock PM. The results were as follows:

	<u>Votes Received</u>
<u>Member, Prudential Committee, 3 years</u>	
Seth Burdick *	66
<u>Member, Board of Fire Commissioners, 3 years</u>	
Adam Zais *	64
<u>Member, Board of Water Commissioners, 3 years</u>	
David Churbuck *	68

Also, in accordance with the foregoing notice and the by-laws of the District, the annual meeting of the Cotuit Fire District was held Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at Freedom Hall, Main Street, Cotuit, at seven-thirty o'clock PM. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator. The Clerk read the call of the meeting and return of the same. The Clerk then reported the election results. Then action was taken on the following articles:

**Article 1:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to accept the reports of the officers and committees of the District as printed. **Unanimous - 2/3 vote requirement met**

**Article 2:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted for FY 2021 to set the annual salaries of the elected officials as follows: Prudential Committee Members, Members of the Board of Fire Commissioners and Members of the Board of Water Commissioners: **\$1,250.00** each; Moderator: **\$250.00**. **Unanimous**

**Article 3:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$45,000.00** to establish the reserve fund as provided in Section 5C, Chapter 40 of the General Laws. **Unanimous meets 2/3 vote requirement**

**Article 4:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$115,792.00** for labor and salaries for the Finance Department; and **\$289,680.00** for the remaining expenses of the Prudential Committee for the Financial Department to be apportioned approximately as follows: **\$288,680.00** for operations and **\$1,000.00** for miscellaneous expenses for a total appropriation of **\$405,472.00**. **Passes by 2/3 Majority with 2 nays**

**Article 5:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$2,083,340.00** for labor and salaries of the Fire Department; and **\$376,304.00** for the remaining expenses of the Fire Department, to be apportioned approximately as follows: **\$81,070.00**, for Maintenance, **\$294,234.00**, for Operations and **\$1,000.00**, Miscellaneous expenses for a total appropriation of **\$2,459,644.00**. **Passes by Majority**

**Article 6:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to borrow and appropriate **\$65,000.00** for additional funds to purchase a replacement ambulance to be expended under the authority of the Fire Commissioners. **Passed by 2/3 Majority with one objecting**

**Article 7:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted not to transfer and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** from Certified Free Cash for performance of a cybersecurity review for the Fire Department. **Defeated**

**Article 8:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to borrow and appropriate **\$51,000.00** for the purchase of a cardiac monitor. **Unanimous - 2/3 vote requirement is satisfied**

**Article 9:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$35,000.00** for the Water Department for service connections, **\$456,551.00** for labor and salaries; and **\$361,475.00** for the remaining expenses of the Water Department, to be apportioned approximately as follows: **\$97,700.00** for maintenance; **\$262,275.00** for operations; and **\$1,500.00** for miscellaneous expenses for a total appropriation Of **\$853,026.00**. **Passed by Majority- 64 yes to 23 nays.**

**Article 10:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to borrow and appropriate **\$200,000.00** for the repair and upgrading on certain Water Mains. 2/3rd vote requirement is satisfied with one objecting **Passed by 2/3 Majority with one objecting**

**Article 11:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate for FY 2021: **\$5,999.00** for the labor and salaries for Freedom Hall Building Maintenance; and **\$20,531.00** for the remaining expenses of the Prudential Committee, as specified in the Budget Handbook distributed at the meeting and to be apportioned approximately as follows: Maintenance, **\$12,525.00** for maintenance, **\$7,906.00** for operations, and **\$100.00** for Miscellaneous expenses for a total appropriation of **\$26,530.00**. **Passed by Majority**

**Article 12:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$7,410.00** to maintain the streetlights of the District. **Unanimous**

**Article 13:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to transfer and appropriate **\$26,000.00** from Certified Free Cash to support the maintenance of the Cotuit Library. **Unanimous**

**Article 14:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$118,970.00** and transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash **\$287,632.00** for a total appropriation of **\$406,602.00** for the payment of principal and interest. **Passed by Majority with one objecting**

**Article 15:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$572,902.00**, and transfer and appropriate the **\$140,420.00** from Certified Free Cash and transfer and appropriate from the General Stabilization Fund **\$200,000.00** for a total of **\$913,322.00** for the purpose of paying employee health insurances and

post-employment benefits. **2/3 vote requirement is satisfied with only two objecting**

**Article 16:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to transfer and appropriate the sum of **\$35,000.00** from Certified Free Cash for the Stabilization Fund as provided under Section 5B, Chapter 40, of the General Laws. **Unanimous - 2/3 vote requirement is satisfied**

**Article 17:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to transfer and appropriate the sum of **\$46,080.00** from Certified Free Cash to the Water Department Stabilization Fund as provided under Article IX, Section 5 of the District By-laws. **Passes by Majority**

**Article 18:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to authorize the Prudential Committee to complete the acceptance of the intergovernmental transfer from the Town of Barnstable of 8.5+ acres of the so-called Cotuit Elementary School property at 140 Old Oyster Road which will also include the acquisition of a Conservation Restriction in an adjacent 5+ acre parcel. **Passes by majority vote.**

**Article 19:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to revise the District Bylaws Article XI, Section 11 by deleting "citizens of the District" and replacing it with "individuals". **2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote requirement is satisfied with one objecting**

**Article 20:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted a non-binding referendum to allow the Prudential Committee to petition to the state legislature for enabling legislation which would allow the Cotuit Fire District to raise and appropriate monies for the operational needs of the Historical Society of Santuit and Cotuit, in the Town of Barnstable. The non-binding vote was **40 in favor and 13 against.**

The Moderator announced he has appointed Carol Zais and Amy Kates to the By-law Committee. Also, he has appointed Michael Curtis and Cynthia Gardner to the Policy Advisory Committee.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to dissolve the meeting.

A True Copy, attest:

Charles W. Eager

Charles W. Eager, Clerk  
Cotuit Fire District