

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
COTUIT, MA 02635
November 27, 2023**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Fran Parks on November 27, 2023 at Freedom Hall, 976 Main Street, Cotuit.

Fran Parks led the Meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made, seconded to open the Classification Hearing with Fran Parks, Mark Lynch and Seth Burdick all voting in the affirmative. The Town Assessor R. Lane Partridge explains what is done to set the values for the different categories of properties in Barnstable. The committee will vote whether to tax all properties the same or split the rate between residential and industrial, commercial and personal property. **Motion made, seconded to close the public hearing. Fran Parks, Mark Lynch and Seth Burdick all vote in the affirmative. Motion made, seconded to vote on the tax rate. Fran Parks, Mark Lynch and Seth Burdick all vote in the affirmative. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept a residential factor of one.**

There was no public comment at this time.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes of September 25, 2023.

The Treasurer reported the over 33% of the year 37% of the estimated revenues have been received and after adjustments for one time payment 26% of the estimated expense have been paid. Property taxes and water rate revenues are under projections. Ambulance and other revenue are greater than projection.

The Treasurer then discussed the investments he has made and the four school property articles, Space Needs Study article, Acquisition and Maintenance article, Alternative Development Determination article and Pre-Acquisition Environmental Study. He suggests the left-over Acquisition and the Pre-Acquisition balances be repurposed.

The Treasurer remarked the District was doing well in both revenues and expenditures for the first quarter of the year. Even though expenses appear to be over budget adjustment is needed for one-time payments made for insurance and retirement in the first quarter.

Property tax receipts were slightly below target but refunds reduced revenues by \$40,000.

He explained this happens because there is a lag between pumping, He also noted that Water Department revenues were up but pumping is down from last year. and collections. Overall, he believes water revenue will be down from last year's.

There was discussion on the Water Department's plan to use excess revenue to upgrade septic system near water source. The Treasurer created a report to show how much profit or deficit the Water Department has after all expenses have been allocated for 8 years.

Fire Commissioner Kevin Conley proposes that the Prudential Committee allow the Fire Commissioners to use some of the money available for space needs. The Commissioners have bids for architectural and conceptual designs. It is set up in two phases. The first phase will tell if the construction is feasible while the station remains operational. If not, then the Commissioners will stop and turn the rest of the money back to the Prudential Committee. The only concern of the Prudential Committee is how much time will it take to make the determination. The Prudential Committee agrees to provide the Commissioners with funding. **A motion is made, seconded and passed unanimously to transfer \$29,750 to the Fire Department.**

Fran Parks reported that the school has a broken window and she has contracted with David Kerr to board up the window. The Prudential Committee asked Fire Commissioner Kevin Conley if the Fire Department could view the building and report on any broken windows or other damage. He agreed it was a reasonable request. **Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to have Fran Parks the authority to use up to \$4,000 to hire contractors to maintain the integrity of the school.**

Fran Parks reported on the activity at Freedom Hall.

Fran Parks brought up documents regarding the sale of the Water Town lease. The documents were received today. The Prudential Committee all agree they need time to review the documents before signing.

Fran Parks then asked if there was any public comment. One individual warned the committee when signing the lease for the Water Town to make sure they are signing something they might regret. Another individual asked if the Prudential Committee would be doing their own study for the school and not following the Fire Commissioners. The Committee all agreed they would be doing their own study for the school. It was asked for clarification purposes was the District going to follow the Fire Commissioners study. The answer was no the Fire Commissioners only have money to use on the High Street properties. The Committee was just speculating if the study comes back and says its not feasible to operate and build on High Street the Commissioners might then look at the school property. An individual brought forth her research on asbestos to the Committee and said she would like committee set up to work on ways to use the existing building. There was discussion on alternative uses of the school other than demolition. The Prudential Committee for financial reason are leaning to demolition of the school. Seth Burdick said he believes the best way to bring their views forward is through an article inserted in the Annual District Warrant.

Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.