

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
FREEDOM HALL
COTUIT, MA 02635
FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Fran Parks on February 27, 2024 at Freedom Hall and available by the Zoom Application.

Fran Parks did a roll call of the members present.

Fran Parks led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no Public Comment at this time.

Water Commissioner Mark Robinson provided a mid-year budget review of the Water Department. Superintendent Chris Wisemen and Commissioner Churbuck were also in attendance. Commissioner Robinson went over the highpoints. He explained even though revenues are down \$300,000.00 from last year they are exceeding projected revenue of this year by \$50,000.00 and should exceed the projected revenue for the year. Commissioner Robinson was asked if the Water Department was pumping less. He said yes and they are happy with the outcome. He doesn't believe there will be a loss in revenue due to the wastewater. He went over the expenses. Commissioner Robinson said there will be a small reduction in salaries due to the resignation of an employee.

The Fire Chief was up next to provide the Fire Department's mid-year review of the budget. The Chief told the Prudential Committee that the Department is \$40,000.00 above projection for year at this time due to increase call volume. The Chief went over the expenses and there was nothing out of the ordinary. He said one new area they have set up is reassurance for District residents. They will do home visits and put in smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and key boxes. They will also check on residents., They given out some of the organizational duties as part of career training. It gives the firefighter ownership in the Department to help set up for higher rank when opening come around. He was asked about the brush breaker. Currently, it being kept at Joint Base Cape Cod. He said the Commissioner would like to transfer ownership to Joint Base Cape Cod. He said cost of upkeep is greater than its benefits. The Treasurer believes any transfer should be District vote.

The Treasurer is the next one up to discuss the mid-year budget. The Treasurer believe the budget is looking good. At this time the District is exceeding their projection by 1%. The expenses are surpassing expectation. The District is 2% below what was projected. This amount includes some one-time expense if taken out the District would be in even better position.

Fran Parks reported she received a call at 2:18AM from the police department reporting the school had been broken into and if she wanted to go in. She declined. She and Lisa visited the school the next day and took pictures of the damage. The Prudential Committee previously talked about getting motion and heat detectors

for the school. She first requested an estimate from Cape Cod Alarm who previously had the contract and had difficulty getting an estimate. She then requested an estimate from Nemec Alarms. Nemec estimate was slightly higher but included a couple extra services. The Committee decided to take Nemec bid. Next Fran brought up boarding up the school windows. After listening to Chief Brown description of the problem this made cause the committee decided to only board up the broken window. Next was brought up what to do with the school. It was decided to hold a Special District Meeting at the Federated Church Community Room on the weeks of May 6 or May 13 based on availability.

Fran Parks reports on Freedom Hall. She said that Freedom Hall is getting busier with rentals. Fran said she would like to purchase a rain sensor for Freedom Hall irrigation system. **Motion made, seconded and passed to purchase a rain sensor.**

Fran Parks said she would like to have a meeting of all the committees, Fire, Water and Prudential after the Annual Meeting. The other members of the Prudential Committee were in agreement.

Fran Parks asks the By-law Committee propose a by-law that the By-law and Policy Advisory Committees write a report on what they have done.

During public comment John Gardner requested the Prudential Committee not have the Special District Meeting on May 18th due to a prior commitment.

George Foy spoke on other options for the school. He is hoping to have an article on the Special District Warrant. He believes it up to the community to decide. Mark Lynch agreed that it is up to the community to decide.

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