

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT  
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
FREEDOM HALL  
COTUIT, MA 02635  
JANUARY 22, 2024**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Mark Lynch on January 22, 2024 at Freedom Hall and available by the Zoom Application.

Mark Lynch did a roll call of members present.

Mark Lynch led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comment Brian Kehrl voices his support for a feasibility study for the Cotuit Elementary School before it is demolished.

Fran Parks provides an update where the Prudential Committee is in the process of getting a procurement officer for the District. Fran contacts the Procurement Officers of Massachusetts to help in the search of a Procurement Officer. Ms. Jannelvy Martinez replied to Fran's request. Ms. Martinez was asked how she can help with the school project and her qualifications. She provided her qualification and explained three ways the project could get done. Use an on-call firm, RSP or seek an exemption from Chapter 30B. She recommended the RSP process because it would get great number of people involved.

The Treasurer then gave his report. The property tax collections are \$72,000 below budget. The Treasurer warns the water usage is down from last year with water estimates already below prediction. If the budget shortfall continues the Treasurer will recommend to use the Stabilization Fund to cover the shortage.

During the discussion on the school Fran Parks reported on additional windows being broken. She suggests maybe putting cameras around the property. Mark said he has had requests to tour the school. Fran remarked that Chief Brown had a walk through to see if the people breaking the windows were doing anything inside. He didn't notice that they were doing anything inside but did notice more ceiling tiles down and puddles from the leaking roof. Mark said anyone looking for a tour to contact him directly. As long as it can be done safe and with Chief Brown or a representative was willing to escort them he would arrange the tour. Fran Parks said Chief Brown suggest swapping out the smoke detectors with heat detector because there is nothing to burn. She contacted Cape Cod Alarm and to switch out the alarms will cost \$1,555.00. **Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to purchase heat sensors for the Cotuit School for the cost of \$1,555.00 from Cape Cod Alarm Company.** Fran also said she went to a meeting held by the people looking to make the school the Cotuit Community Center. They discussed circulating a petition to give to the Prudential Committee to says they want to do go out for an RFP on the possible uses of the school. Fran suggested getting signatures for a petition article to be put on a Warrant. Mark proposes to have a Special District Meeting on this issue. Mark and Seth both think too much time has been spent on the school. They believe they should have an up or down vote on the use. They suggest setting a date for the Special District Meeting.

They believe it should be before the Annual Meeting. The Committee settle on May being the best month to have the meeting. Next meeting they will set the date.

Fran Parks then reports on Freedom Hall. This weekend there was a very large baby shower held there. During cleanup this morning floor damage was found. The deposit is on hold and Fran is looking to get someone to provide a price to fix the damage. The Committee agrees. She also reports the chair rail is getting beaten up by having tables and chairs being pushed up against it. Fran said she would like to have some rubber bumpers put up to save the chair rail and touch up painting done. Finally, she reports she had a railing put up going from the second floor up to the third floor. Seth and Mark were reluctant about putting bumpers around the room.

During public comment Brian Kehril asked if he was correct about how the Special District Meeting would take place. The Prudential Committee would set a Warrant with an article for demolition of the school and it would up to a group if they decide to petition for a different direction article. Mark and Seth agreed with the assessment. Kathy Kehrl remarked it would be informative to view the school before making a decision to go forward. Mark Lynch said he thought that could be done and give him a call to set it up.

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