

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT  
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
COTUIT, MA 02635  
OCTOBER 30, 2023**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Fran Parks on October 30, 2023 at Freedom Hall, 976 Main Street, Cotuit.

There was no public comment at this time.

Fran Parks led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes of August 28, 2023, September 6, 2023 and October 4, 2023.**

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 receipt were slightly below target but refunds reduced revenues by \$40,000.

He also noted that Water Department revenue were up but pumping is down from last year. He explained this happens because there is a lag between pumping and collections. Overall he believe 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.

Treasurer reported he was 2 days late for a debt payment and free cash was over allocated at the Annual District Meeting.

Fran then brought up the Zoom Meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> about what to do with the school. Postcards advertising the meeting will be going out. Mark will provide a powerpoint. Mark said the meeting will explain the process, status and the Prudential Committee preliminary recommendation is subject to public input. The committee is looking for the reaction is to their recommendation.

The second issue Fran brought up is the District doesn't have Procurement Officer. How do they go about and hire one.

Seth asked what the status of the deed was? Mark said through counsel had sent a quick claim deed to the Town and have not received any back yet.

Fran said the new sandwich board signs were received. She also said she was able to get a quote from the new landscaping company. He would charge \$45 for mowing, \$200 for each time he did snow removal, \$405 for fall cleanup and spring cleanup would be thatching the lawn for \$325, Fran needs to check if it includes mulch.

**Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to retain Robert Scudder landscaping service for Freedom Hall.**

Fran asked if there was any public comment. Graham Silliman asked if at the next public hearing if the Committee explains what changing the enabling legislation means? He also as the committee moves along with the project it would be a good idea hire a clerk of the works and makes a recommendation of an individual. Patty Daley said the legislation had been amended twice. She said Kippy Diggs said if there was vote of support he would file a bill so you shouldn't just submit this option.

Joanne Massaro asked the Treasurer if he has seen any trend in the amount of money the Town has overpaid in taxes to the District? He said no there is any set amount or percentage. She said that the water revenues are dropping not just because of the rain but because of new wells put in for irrigation to counter new higher prices being proposed. He said it could be.

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