

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
FREEDOM HALL
COTUIT, MA 02635
May 13, 2024**

Present: Mark Lynch, Fran Parks, Ray Pirrone, Seth Burdick and Charlie Eager

The meeting was called to order by Fran Parks on May 13, 2024

Fran did a roll call of the members present and the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

- No chat / raised hands

Review of Special District Meeting

- Mark stated:
 - Article 1 – Demolition did not meet the 2/3 majority
 - Article 2 – Amended to drop last paragraph related to a special meeting which Counsel advised could only be called by Prudential Committee. Also amended to make it clear that they were seeking no more than the amount indicated in Article 17.
- Fran and Lisa Haven spoke about the sign-in for Special District Meeting
 - Lisa stated that the town prints out the voter list by street name
- John Gardner
 - Apologized for the delay and realized that the meeting was 30 minutes late.
 - 300 people showed up and stated that it was helpful that Cotuit FF John Amento waited at the door asking voters what their street names were
 - He suggested that signs 6ft above the check-in tables with street names on it
- Seth's idea for a smoother check-in was to put in the announcements – Check in begins at 6pm. Meeting begins at 7pm.
- Fran stated that when Patty and Lally Lloyd spent 30 minutes arguing about reversing the order of the items on the Warrant
 - She stated her opinion that the Patty and Lally should have been given the answer one time and then sat down. They held up the meeting.
- Fran stated that she would like to take a vote to remove Article 25 on the Annual District Meeting warrant.
 - Mark stated that he is in favor of that assuming that the proponents of the Special District Meeting Article 2 are likewise willing to withdraw their identical motion on for Annual District Meeting.
 - Fran stated that that cannot be voted on because there is no change from what was on the SDM. You need a vote to reconsider which should have been done at the time of the SDM. If they use the one that is on the Warrant, that will affect the tax rate by \$.24 as compared to a bond which is \$.06
 - Article 26 is null and void.

- At the ADM, the Committee will vote to withdraw Article 25 on the understanding that Article 26 will be null and void as well.
- Mark asked about Article 22 and 23 regarding Repurposing Funds.
 - Fran stated those should not be withdrawn.
- Mark spoke about Barnstable Land Trust
 - The Barnstable Land Trust made an offer – which was accepted – on property on Rte. 28
- Fran mentioned engaging an architect to work on the Cotuit School
 - Mark and Seth discussed the Habib Report
 - Seth suggested establishing an Ad Hoc Committee
 - Fran stated that an Ad Hoc Committee is not needed because there are already specific questions within the article
- Mark stated, “What are we asking the Architectural Firm to do?” and if a RFP needs to happen, the Prudential Committee needs to do that.
- Fran state that three (3) firms need to meet with the Prudential Committee.
- Fran, Seth and Mark all discussed the merits of the existing building and what “can” be done with it.
- Ray mentioned the legal part of the discussion that needed to be addressed which was what can be done legally under the existing legislation?
 - Fran answered that whatever the use is, it has to be connected to either water or fire.

Accepting past minutes

- Not discussed

Treasurer’s Report

FY24

- Not discussed

Public Comment:

- Carol Zais
 - commented that the Agenda did not have Freedom Hall listed nor the address for the Prudential meeting
 - She stated that the idea of an Ad Hoc Committee was a great idea.
 - Where does the community want to go use wise?
 - Attendance at SDM was only 239 and not close to 300.
- Patty Daley
 - She echoed Carol’s comment regarding the meeting notice that it appeared was not live and ZOOM link was not working.
 - Regarding the study of the school, she stated that she would be happy to talk to Mark regarding withdrawing Articles.
 - Regarding the potential RFP, she agrees with Carol Zais regarding a small Ad Hoc Committee.
- Catherine (??)
 - Questioned whether the language in the article included the cost for demolition?
 - Mark and Fran answered, “Correct.”

- Kathy asked who is going to pay for the renovation – she thought it was going to be a 501 C3 raising funds and not taxpayers.
 - Fran answered that the taxpayers will be paying for the demo of the building
- Carol Zais
 - She thinks that the Prudential Committee has a group of people that will work on the committees behalf with the community to get the information and have the workshops. The inclusion of the committee and the transparency by having an Ad Hoc Committee is important to getting to a final decision regarding what happens to the school. She stated that she supports Seth's concept.
 - Fran stated that would take forever.
 - Carol stated that the meetings that Prudential Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee can work simultaneously in a timely manner.
 - Mark stated that the Prudential Committee has been negotiating the deal for 2.5 years and it closed 6 months ago. There does not appear to have been any movement by the people who are interested in turning this into a community center.
 - Fran stated that the community had three (3) years to figure out what to do with the school and it is unfair to the Prudential Committee and you will never get a consensus regarding what to do with the building.
 - Seth stated that he thinks that a timetable should be created. Prudential Committee should ask the Community Representative to come to the next Prudential Committee meeting and bring forth what it is that the community wants at the same time as the Prudential Committee starts to reach out to architectural firms.
- Patty Daley
 - Does not anticipate it would take a year.
 - She still supports the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee.
 - Non-profit has never agreed to pay for the demo of the building.
 - She is expecting the Re-Use Study to show what the building can be used for.

Fran made Motion to Adjourn / motion seconded – all in favor