

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT  
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
FREEDOM HALL  
COTUIT, MA 02635  
April 29, 2024**

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

The meeting was called to order by Fran Parks on April 29, 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**

- SDM Article II
  - Ray stated that it would create duplicate/new funding from the currently available free cash in the amount of \$207,000.00
    - Fran stated that the amount can be decreased when Article II is read.
    - Ray stated that someone (not the moderator, not Ray, not the Commissioners) needs to be ready to state the amount needs to be decreased.
    - Mark stated that the intention for the money to be used for Warrants 21-17
    - Fran stated that Mark Boudreault would be there to explain it.
- Annual District Warrant Review
  - Version of the Articles was circulated and renumbered them as the Warrant was presented up to Article
    - Inserted Article IX – Requests Approval for Transfer of Title for Brush Breaker to JBCC
    - Previous Article IX then becomes Article X – as written with total of \$89,0195.00 agrees with the budget – short form itemizing salaries and all other
    - Previous Article X then becomes Article XI and gets modified for new meter reading software and equipment
    - Previous Article XI then becomes Article XII and inserts the comment, “related security systems equipment”
    - Article XIII is then inserted which states, “If the District will vote to raise and appropriate and/or borrow and appropriate and/or transfer and appropriate from available funds \$50,000.00 to acquire a conservation restriction pursuant to M.G.L. c.184 §31-33 to be held jointly with the Town of Barnstable.” The Prudential Committee voted to support this Article.
    - Previous Article XIII then becomes Article XIV without any changes
    - Previous Article XIV then becomes Article XV without any changes
    - Previous Article XV then becomes Article XVI without any changes
    - Previous Article XVI then becomes Article XVII without any changes

- Previous Article XVII then becomes Article XVIII with the total being revised to \$953,161.00
- Previous Article XVIII then becomes Article XIX without any changes
- Previous Article XIX then becomes Article XX without any changes
- Previous Article XX then becomes Article XXI without any changes
- Article XXII will be changed predicated on interpretation of SDM Article II
  - Ray proposed that in the Article XXII the reference to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article 21-17 and will read as revised, “District will vote to repurpose the following Articles:
    - 2015-10 and 19 water tank security comprising of \$312,634.00; and
    - 22-24 School Property and Environmental Study comprising of \$28,000.00 to be available for funding the voter determined final disposition of the Cotuit Elementary School Building.”
      - Ray is suggesting that the Prudential Committee recommend this Article.
  - Article XXIII would be to see if the District would vote to repurpose Article 21-17 “Alternative Development Determination as determined in the May 4, 2024, SDM Article II, or if that Article did not pass, be available for funding the voter determined final disposition of the Cotuit Elementary School Building.”
  - Article XXIV was returned to its original form which reads: “To see if the District will vote to authorize the Cotuit Fire District to do all things necessary to petition the MA and Great General Court to change the enabling legislation of the Cotuit Fire District and the establishment of the Cotuit Water Commission on Chapter 244 of the Special Acts of MA 1935 substantially as follows:
    - The Water Commission of the Cotuit Fire District shall have the authority to fund improvements on private property with written approval by the property owner to protect and enhance the quality of water supply for the benefit of the residents of Cotuit.
      - Prudential Committee voted unanimously to NOT recommend this
        - This was submitted by the Water Dept.
  - Article XXV – To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and appropriate from available funds a sum not to exceed \$1.1M with a demolition of the Cotuit Elementary School building located at 140 Old Oyster Road, Cotuit, MA. The Prudential Committee recommends this Article.
    - Fran moved to approve the entire Warrant for the 2024 ADM of Cotuit Fire District. Mark stated that accepting the Warrant from Patty Daily is subject to John’s review as to whether or not one can do a “re-do. Mark moved to adopt this Warrant for the ADM. Fran seconded.
      - Ray stated that the way that this Article is written will increase the tax rate by approximately \$.24 in 2025 if demolition is paid for with taxes

- Fran stated that at the SDM, Prudential Committee will still say “borrow”.
  - Fran stated that, prior to the vote on Saturday, there needs to be a “Global Discussion”.
- John Gardner stated that he and the Chief discussed the size of the meeting room (Community Center at the Church) and capacity to code. An alternative plan will need to be determined.
- Chief stated that the number of seats and aisle widths will determine the capacity (directly from the code).
  - Fran stated that the only other option would be the parking lot at the ballpark.
  - Mark asked Chief Brown about the outdoor seating at the Community Center.
    - Chief answered that he would need to look at the codes.
  - Fran asked if the Sanctuary could be used as it holds more.
  - John Gardner stated that the Sanctuary is not rated to hold more than the Community Center.
  - More discussion regarding where to hold the meeting (hard to follow the conversation).
- Fran stated that Seth (not present) rec’d a call from Kip Diggs – who rec’d a call from Carol Zais stating she was concerned that the Article XXIV, Enabling Act legislation has changed for the district to supply the Historical Society with yearly funds was not being moved along because the legislation stated there was not enough people supporting it. Fran state that she spoke with Mark Boudreault. Mark stated that the best course of action was to take a vote that the Prudential Committee was not interested in pursuing it and state it again.
  - Fran asked Mark (Lynch) if he wanted to wait until the next meeting when Seth is present.
  - Ray asked that if Article XXIV were to pass, how does one implement an Article that is invalid on the face?
  - Fran stated that she will call Mark Boudreault and this can be discussed/amended at ADM.

#### **Accepting past minutes**

- Not discussed

#### **Treasurer’s Report**

**FY24**

- Not discussed

#### **Public Comment:**

- Not discussed

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