

Cotuit Fire District – Board of Fire Commissioners

Notice of meetings of District Department and all District Boards

As required by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009 which amends MGL Chapter 30 A

March 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Fire Commissioner Nailor made a motion to accept January 10, 2013 and January 24, 2013 meeting minutes, seconded motion carried.

Recording: Amy Kates and Barbara Trainor-Tessier

Fire Commissioner Mycock: request to make a statement:

I would like to make a statement regarding our January 24, 2013 meeting, this is a duly elected Board of the Cotuit Fire District and we commissioners are elected to represent all of the people of the District. Our meetings are open to the public so that they may observe our board's work and deliberations. It has become abundantly clear over the last couple of years to all that attend our meetings that 90% of our public comment comes from the same 4 people. As we know from a letter from the Attorney general's office dated July 18, 2012 "We note, however that the Open Meeting Law does not require a public body to allow public participation, nor does it require that it respond to questions from members of the public". Why is this so? Our meetings are open to the public so they can watch the duly elected officials do the peoples work in the running of the Fire Department, this is our job, we are elected to represent all of the people. If the public comment continues to be disruptive to this boards operations then we will be forced to limit it in the future, this is not something I do lightly as I believe in public comment but it is not this boards job to sit here and argue with a small group.

As to the general set up of our meetings:

1. Some of you may not know but in generally it is Chief Olsen that set's up the room for our meetings and as most of you know there are a number of chairs set up with a row in the middle.
2. Over the past year and half I have had a number of people complain to me about Commissioners Kates coming into the room and reorganizing it to her personal preferences. I have felt that although no one should have preferential treatment it wasn't worth the board's time to deal with such disruptive behavior. That being said I had had enough complaints that I feel it was more than appropriate to respectfully stop this disruptive behavior.
3. Initially I told Chief Olsen to tell Commissioner Kates that the Board did not want her to rearrange the seating of our meetings.
4. At our next meeting Commissioner Kates came in and started to rearrange the room and Chief Olsen spoke to her again saying the Board did not want her to rearrange the room and disrupt the meeting. Commissioner

Kates said she didn't care and proceed to rearrange the room. When I came into the meeting I could not believe my eyes but decided not to make a big deal of it.

5. At our next meeting, to quell the situation I had Chief Olsen set up two tables behind each row of chairs for the general public's use. When I came into the meeting Commissioner Kates had once again rearranged and disrupted the meeting room. This time I told her that tables had been set up in the last row for the public's use. We removed the table she had set up for herself.

6. At our meeting on January 24, 2013 Commissioner Kates once again had taken it up on herself to disrupt our meeting by rearranging the meeting room. Commissioner Kates and those accompanying her wanted to argue with the Chair over the setup of the room. Read certain parts of the "Meetings and Minutes Guide for Boards".

7. Based on this and the disruptive behavior of Comm. Kates and those accompanying her I made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

This is the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting to do the work of the Fire Dept., going forward I will not allow this type of disruptive behavior at our meetings, we will either adjourn the meeting or call the police and ask the offending parties to leave.

During the Fire Commissioner meeting while Fire Commissioner Mycock was reading his statement Ms Barbara Trainor-Tessier in a disruptive behavior made several comments, was asked to stop and that she was out of order by the Chairperson of the meeting Fire Commissioner Mycock. Ms Barbara Trainor-Tessier choose not to stop with the disruptive behavior and was asked by the Chairperson of the meeting Fire Commissioner Mycock to leave the meeting, Ms Barbara Trainor-Tessier refused to leave the meeting, Fire Commissioner Mycock asked the Fire Chief to duly note the disruptive behavior and that Ms Barbara Trainor-Tessier will not leave the meeting. Continued to finish reading the statement. Fire Commissioner Mycock continued to read the statement.

Fire Commissioners Mycock asked Prudential Committee Kates are you going to continue with your disruptive behavior at our Fire Commissioner meetings, Prudential Committee Kates made several comments, Fire Commissioner Mycock asked Prudential Committee Amy Kates to answer the question, Prudential Committee Amy Kates made several more comments again not answering the question only answering with questions, Fire Commissioner Mycock stated, "thank you" you have given us your answer.

Fire Commissioner Mycock made a motion that the Board of Fire Commissioners direct Fire Commissioner Mycock to seek legal counsel to go to court if necessary to have Prudential Committee member Amy Kates and Ms Barbara Trainor-Tessier to be banned from Fire Commissioner Meetings.

Fire Commissioner Mycock stating that the disruptive behavior continues to happen and they are choosing not to stop with the disruptive behavior.

Fire Commissioner Nailor stating I agree with your motion if the disruptive behavior continues and will support that motion.

Seconded by Fire Commissioner Nailor

Fire Commissioner Mycock makes a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Fire Commissioner Nailor motion carried.

Respectively Submitted:

Board of Fire Commissioners