

COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
Prudential Committee
Regular Meeting, June 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Amy Kates. Members Barry and Hadley were both present.

The Chair opened the meeting to public comment. Ms Marge Wallace commented on the payment of tellers at the annual meeting, stating if this was to become policy, it should be discussed and voted upon. She personally felt it is a public service and no compensation should be forthcoming.

Ms Cynthia Gardner requested an explanation of the Reserve Fund, which was provided by the Treasurer, Ms Agnes Murray

Minutes of four previous meetings, the February regular meeting, the March regular meeting, an April special meeting and the May regular meeting were read and approved.

Web Site: Ms Hadley reported that she is working with Ms Patricia Browne of the Browne Company in Cotuit. The domain name has been transferred from the previous company to the Browne Company. It is expected that the site will be operational, if not fully complete, by the beginning of July.

Assistant Treasurer's position: After much discussion it was agreed that no action will be taken on conducting interviews until a solution to the problem of the district office and the acquisition of new software have been accomplished.

Accounting software: Ms Murray did obtain a copy of a COMM report, but did not have time to Xerox it before the meeting. She will do so and provide copies for the committee members. Ms Murray is still advocating the newest version of the software she is currently using and which is now Windows-based. Ms Hadley and Ms Murray will go together to COMM to observe their process. There was also a great deal of discussion about the acquisition process: whether or not we need to have an RFP, whether we could simply get three prices and just go from there, or if we needed to pursue some other route.

District Office location: Discussion was held on what our next step should be. Several suggestions were made, some for a permanent solution and some for a temporary solution. These included adding on to the Water Department building, selling District owned property held by the Water Department to finance a new building, using the Water Department conference room, renting an office or office trailer. Ms Murray stated the Water Department conference room was not an option as they also used it for storage and mixing lime slurry from time to time. Discussion of the size office required resulted in a suggestion that 15 x 20 or 20 x 20 would be adequate.

Freedom Hall: Chairman Kates reported the drains and dry wells were being cleaned. She had inspected the gutters with a contractor. In response to a question, it was learned that the gutters are not cleaned on a regular basis. Mr Barry requested copies of the estimates Ms Kates has received for the work that is planned.

Tellers: The Moderator has suggested compensation for the tellers for their work at the annual meeting. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted not to pay the tellers.

There was also much discussion of the last District Meeting and comments from members of the public who stated it had been quite confusing.

Mr Barry asked about an article which had appeared in the Enterprise concerning a meeting of some Cotuit residents with members of the Public Service Committee of the state legislature. Ms Kates had attended this session, but Mr Barry and Ms Hadley had never been made aware that it was scheduled. Ms Kates received an e-mail from Representative David Viera. She felt she was involved as a private citizen, not a member of the Prudential Committee.

Reports from the Treasurer were reviewed and discussed.

The meeting was recessed to allow members to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the on-going union negotiations, not to return to public session.

Respectfully submitted

LAURIE C. HADLEY
Clerk, Prudential Committee