

COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
ANNUAL ELECTION AND DISTRICT MEETING
JUNE 4 AND 5, 2026

In accordance with the Warrant and the By-Laws of the District, the Annual Meeting of the Cotuit Fire District was held on Friday, June 5, 2026, at the Federated Church, Hamilton Room, 40 School Street, Cotuit, Massachusetts, at 7:30 p.m.

The Moderator, Lallie Lloyd, identified herself and requested that all those able stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by members of the Scouts. The Moderator then moved to allow non-residents she listed, who may need to speak, to be granted that privilege. The motion carried. The Moderator introduced Amy Fish of the Cotuit Federated Church, who offered a brief statement.

The Moderator then requested that the Clerk report the election results. The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the Warrant and the By-Laws of the District, the Annual Election of the Cotuit Fire District was held at Freedom Hall, 976 Main Street, Cotuit, Massachusetts, on June 4, 2026, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., with 256 voters participating. The results were as follows:

Member of the Prudential Committee, for three years **Votes**

Seth Burdick	195
Wendy S Solomon	59
Blank	2

Member of the Board of Fire Commissioners, for three years **Votes**

David C Churbuck	227
Blank	28
Write In Michael Kiernan	1

Member of the Board of Water Commissioners, for three years **Votes**

Adam Zais	190
Blank	47
Write In Michael Kiernan	16
Write In Tim Burdick	2
Write In Bruce Blackmon	1

Following the announcement of the election results, the Moderator reviewed a table of frequently used motions and provided an overview of meeting procedures. She then made a motion to take Article 18 out of sequence (between Articles 11 and 12) and Article 23 out of sequence (between Articles 17 and 19). The motion carried.

Article 1: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to accept the reports of the officers and committees of the District for fiscal year 2025.

This article PASSED.

Article 2: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to set the annual salaries of the elected officials as follows: Prudential Committee Members, Members of the Board of Fire Commissioners and Members of the Board of Water Commissioners: **\$1,250.00** each; and Moderator: **\$250.00**.

This article PASSED.

Article 3: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$45,000.00** to establish the reserve fund as provided under Section 5C, Chapter 40 of the General Laws.

This article PASSED.

Article 4: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate: **\$ 165,754.00** labor and salaries of the District's Finance Department; and

\$ 350,238.00 for the remaining expenses of the Prudential Committee,

for a total appropriation of **\$515,992.00**

This article PASSED.

Article 5: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate:

\$2,687,994.00 for the labor and salaries of the District's Fire Department; and

\$430,239.00 for the remaining expenses of the Fire Department for a total

appropriation of **\$3,118,233.00**.

(By the request of the Board of Fire Commissioners)

This article PASSED.

Article 6: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate:

\$525,933.00 for labor and salaries of the District's Water Department; and

\$467,759.00 for the remaining expenses of the Water Department,

for a total appropriation of **\$993,692.00**

(By the request of the Board of Water Commissioners)

This article PASSED.

Article 7: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to borrow and appropriate \$ 500,000.00 for repair and replacement of select water mains.

(By the request of the Board of Water Commissioners)

This article PASSED by a two-third majority.

Article 8: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash \$111,000.00 for the replacement of select generators.

(By the request of the Board of Water Commissioners)

This article PASSED.

Article 9: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash \$57,200.00 for software and equipment to enhance the Department's Cybersecurity.

(By the request of the Board of Water Commissioners)

This article PASSED.

Article 10: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash \$80,000.00 for cleaning or rehabilitation of select water wells.

(By the request of the Board of Water Commissioners)

This article PASSED.

Article 11: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash \$20,000.00 for cleaning or rehabilitation of the Lime tank.

(By the request of the Board of Water Commissioners)

This article PASSED.

Article 18: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,440.00 for the Water Department Stabilization Fund as provided under Article IX, Section 5 of the District By-Laws.

This article PASSED.

Article 12: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate:

\$6,400.00 for the labor and salaries for Freedom Hall maintenance; and

\$22,489.00 for the remaining expenses of Freedom Hall,

for a total appropriation of \$28,889.00.

This article PASSED.

Article 13: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate \$10,700.00 to maintain the streetlights of the District.

This article PASSED.

Article 14: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate \$28,411.00 to support the maintenance of the Cotuit Library.

This article PASSED.

Article 15: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$527,000.00** and transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash **\$142,632.00** for a total of **\$669,632.00** for payment of principal and interest.

This article PASSED.

Article 16: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate **\$893,300.00** and transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash **\$280,000.00** for the sum of **\$1,173,300.00** for the purpose of paying employee current and post-employment benefits.

This article PASSED.

Article 17: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$35,000.00** for the Stabilization Fund as provided under Section 5B, Chapter 40, of the General Laws.

This article PASSED.

Article 23: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$14,000.00** to support the maintenance of the Historical Society of Santuit and Cotuit (HSSC).

This article PASSED (52 yea – 30 nay).

Article 19: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to amend **Article II, Section 1** of the By-Laws of the Cotuit Fire District by replacing the words “**at 7:30 PM**” with the words “**at 6:00 PM,**” thereby changing the start time of the Annual District Meeting.

This article PASSED by a two-third majority.

Article 20: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to amend **Article II, Section 4** of the By-Laws of the Cotuit Fire District by adding the following sentence to the end of said section: “**The article narrative and voting results of each warrant article shall be published on the District website within 30 days of the close of the Annual District Meeting.**”

This article PASSED by a two-third majority.

Article 21: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to amend the By-Laws of the Cotuit Fire District by adding a new section establishing a procedure for the recall of elected officials, as recommended by the By-Laws Committee.

Article I, Recall: initiation and procedure

Elected officials shall be subject to recall upon submission of a petition stating the reason or reasons for requesting such recall with the certified signatures of at least 100 registered voters of the District. The petition shall be submitted to the Clerk and Prudential Committee. Within 14 days of receipt of the petition, the Clerk shall advertise a special recall election. Such election shall be held not sooner than 45 days and no later than 60 days after the Clerk has validated the petition. If the recall vote passes, the vacancy provisions of Article I, Section 5, shall apply

This article FAILED.

Article 22: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to amend **Article I, Sections 1 and 3** of the By-Laws of the Cotuit Fire District to provide for the appointment of a Records Access Officer by the Prudential Committee, in order to respond to requests for District records and oversee the secure archiving of District records, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 66.

Article I, Section 1 **Delete** the words: “and an appointed Treasurer.” **Replace with:** “and Treasurer and an appointed Records Access Officer.”

Article I, Section 3 **Add** the following sentence to the end of the section: “The Prudential Committee shall appoint a Records Access Officer in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 66.”

Amendment Article 22: Mark Lynch proposed an amendment to this Article to remove the words “in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 66.” **This amendment PASSED.**

Article 22: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the District voted to amend **Article I, Sections 1 and 3** of the By-Laws of the Cotuit Fire District to provide for the appointment of a Records Access Officer by the Prudential Committee, in order to respond to requests for District records and oversee the secure archiving of District records.

Article I, Section 1 **Delete** the words: “and an appointed Treasurer.” **Replace with:** “and Treasurer and an appointed Records Access Officer.”

Article I, Section 3 **Add** the following sentence to the end of the section: “The Prudential Committee shall appoint a Records Access Officer.” **This article PASSED by a two-third majority.**

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

A True Copy, attest:

Ryan Ouellette

Ryan Ouellette, Clerk
Cotuit Fire District