

Cotuit Fire District  
Prudential Committee  
Minutes  
28 August, 2017

Call to order at 6:00

Amy Kates recording

**Present:**

Ray Pirrone, Lisa Mycock-Kelly, Fran Parks, Stan Goldstein, Charlie Eager

**Public Comment**

Amy Kates stated that it has come to her attention that elected officials are paying tax payer funds without the appropriate discussion and vote of their committee. According to Cotuit Fire District Bylaws the Prudential Committee is responsible for overseeing the expenses of the district. Would like the Prudential Committee to review and come up with a plan so this unacceptable practice doesn't continue. Fran asked what unacceptable practice she is speaking about Amy replied she is referring to voting to spending the districts money without a public meeting and a discussion and a vote to do that. Fran asked when this occurred; Amy replied does Fran want a date? Fran replied not sure what money was spent on what? Amy's reply was spent on attorneys, though could be other things spent on as this committee is in charge of spending district funds in an appropriate manner. Amy is bringing this to the committee so that they will follow up and make a plan. Lisa asked for a timeframe when this occurred, Amy said has been since the fall of 2016 that she is aware of. Stan said indeed have spent money on Open Meeting Law complaints, asked Ray if he has the account that it comes out of and what requirements to approve such spending. Ray response is there are several types charges related to responding to Open Meeting Law inquiries such as the legal fees, staff time to accumulate information to responds and though we haven't taken actions to do proactively can do retroactively. Ray said as he understood the comment, it implies that funds were expended without a warrant under the Annual District meeting; Ray is unaware of anything like that. Fran responded that the Fire Department has line items for legal fees and the Union Negotiation Committee has fees that gave authority to hire someone for legal services as authorized at Annual meeting. When the committee signs any warrant, we are approving the expenditure. Stan said they are other expenditures of Open Meeting Law complaints and should look into it. Ray responded that can accumulate costs secondly, they all fall into the regime Fran just outlined, nothing hasn't gone through the process of approved expenditures and fit into approved categories. He will look into it, but nothing he is aware of.

Cindy Gardner stated Treasurer Pirrone and Fran Parks are gravely mistaken that there was no vote at this year's District meeting to allot any money to be spent for Union Negotiation so any money spent by the Union Negotiating Committee on Attorney's fees needs to come out of Fire Department budget and Prudential Committee does not have authority to spend that money and needs to go to the Fire Commissioner to have them have a vote.

**56 High Street**

The Historic Committee put an 18 month hold on project. The next-door neighbors are thinking about moving it onto their property. Building inspector has looked at it and one moving company has come over to estimated moving it. Fran's concern is the septic system in the driveway. Unless the company slides it over, but then would have to go over neighboring property's to be accomplished. Fran is waiting to hear back from the neighbors (McDonalds), they will contact her when they have spoken with a mover. Stan said the Planning Board made a fair decision. But the McDonalds didn't seem to know what procedure was needed to move the building or the cost to move it to their property to which Lisa agreed. Fran commented we need to remove oil tank and put septic to bed with it not being used. Stan asked if needed to get building permits, Fran responded a permit is not needed to remove tank and hopefully the septic company would pull own permits. Pipes drained and water no longer running so ok to close up septic. Fran

reported that the neighbors cottage behind 56 High Street had two cords of wood delivered, Fran will speak to him that this property is no longer a conduit for him to get to his property.

**Treasurer Report:**

FY17 still working to finalizing numbers. So far Ray thinks all going well favorable spending variances and revenue variances. Taking a little more time to wrap things up as dealing with two systems. Received Town of Barnstable's tax assessor info and going thru normal process of reconciling to our accounts. Pamela Taylor is taking over for Jeff Resnick she is temporary as they are still looking for permanent replacement and hope it filled for November for the recap filing. In 2018 done initial transfers for stabilization the OPED trust. The initial reports look good, but some things to keep our eye on. Met with representative from Dept. of Revenue and went through our recap calculation to get ready for the tax setting in Nov, have all number set and waiting for town to give tax date to finalize. Stan has request for Treasurer, as he does read the MDT reports and could see within spending limits, but is baffled by ledger report. Asked if could either be in a different format or to discuss what numbers mean and would like to see what was authorized, spent, and the variance. Ray offered to take a look and make it more understandable. Fran mentioned Toni has another format, which may be easier to read.

**Cost of Water Service Study:**

Fran met with Treasurer and Chairman of Water Department and reviewed what doing with study. Fran has a proposal for an outline for invitations to bid, don't need an RFP as it is less the\$ 25,000 will just need invitation to bid. Hope to have this out in Sept or Oct. Stan said that at the Water Commissioners meeting one of the contractors suggested getting a physical plant inventory that attached to a GIS overlay so years from now when have pipes replaced will know where everything is. May be expensive and not fall under expenditure/warrant approved. Fran agreed as did Lisa, may look into putting on next year's warrant

**Space Needs Assessment:**

Fran gave Stan a guideline to look at all buildings and make recommendations about what size to put on 56 High Street. Stan offered to get together with people to start drawing up a requirement document, but he is looking at it as review as to what need and then get an architect. Fran agreed. Lisa was reviewing prior minutes, asked if Tim Luff was consulted. Fran spoke to Tim about High street; he is not really interested in doing work for District. Would like to get a bid from Brown and Lindquist as they do a lot of this, and ask other firms.

**Matters not Reasonably Anticipated:**

None

**Minutes:**

Minutes from June 26 meeting, no corrections or additions. Motion made to accept, second all in favor

No other business, going to stay with 6:00 time

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn, seconded and unanimously approved