

**COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT  
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING (VIRTUAL BY ZOOM)  
APRIL 12, 2021**

**Present: Seth Burdick, Ray Pirrone, Charlie Eager, Paul Haenle, Fran Parks**

Fran Parks led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Treasurer presented a draft budget for FY 2022 and highlighted the differences from the previous draft. He emphasized the acquisition of the Cotuit Elementary School and the space needs articles. Fran Parks asked the Treasurer if he thought there was enough money in the Public Building budget to do repair work in the Freedom Hall ladies' room? Ms. Parks believe the cost to be about \$1,500.00. The Treasurer said he believes adding \$1,000.00 to the Public Building budget will cover the repair. Paul Haenle asked the Treasurer on the alternative development of the School Property how many alternatives are being looked at and who is managing it. He said there are four alternatives being looked at. Chief Rhude explained the study would a full evaluation of the District's space needs, Prudential, Water and Fire. The four options are to see if renovating or let stand all current District facilities would meet District needs, renovate the school building for District needs and use any extra space to be used as community space, demolish the building and build a building for just to meet District needs or demolish the building and renew green space. The study would be done by Catalyst Architects which is the company that did the initial needs study a few year ago. This would be an amendment from the previous contract and according to District Counsel an RFP would not be required. It is proposed the District hire an Owner Project Manager to manage the project. Seth Burdick asked what the turnaround time of the project. Chief Rhude said it is six months. He asked what the School Committee stance on this proposal. Fran Parks stated the School Committee hasn't discussed it yet. All members of the Committee think it a good idea to get the information about the school out to the public before the Annual Meeting.

The Draft Capital Improvement Plan has been edited based on last meeting's remarks and distributed to the Prudential Committee. The Plan was accepted as discussed.

Fran Parks proposes that the Annual Meeting be held at the school. If not available then the Meeting then look to having it at the ball field. The Election can be held at Freedom Hall using the same process the Town used at the last election.

The School Committee would like to meet with the Town Manager to have the White Pines acreage included in the property being transferred and putting on restrictions on property use. The Manager sent a message to Asset Manager for the Town, David Anthony. Mr. Anthony contacted the Chief. He will be contacting Fran Parks about setting up a meeting to discuss the parameters of the transfer.

Next on the agenda is the Warrant. There was a discussion on how to present the transfer to the voters. Fran Parks believes the acceptance of the property school be a standalone question then the next

articles should be the funds needed to for the transfer and the plan for what to do with the property. Plan Haenle agrees with Fran but beliefs when discussing the transfer explain to potential what can happen if we accept the property or don't and the that there is associated with the transfer. Rick Pissano disagrees with Fran and believes Articles 16 and 17 are comprehensive as written. Fran said if the Committee wants to leave Article 16 and 17 as is she will go along.

Seth Burdick requested the Policy Advisory Committee suggestion on Public Comment be put on the next meeting's agenda. Fran Parks agrees to put it on the agenda. She asks Seth if he would want to discuss it now. He declines because he does not have his copy of the policy.

During public comment Ken Molloy suggests combining the acceptance of the property with the funding for the transfer. Carol Zais asks who came up with the alternatives if the School Committee didn't? Why does an intergovernmental transfer have such a high legal cost? The high legal cost is the just the cost of doing business. It was explained the four alternatives came from the School Committee. The Committee has been talking about demolishing the building, using it for District Offices or Community Center. Carol Zais expressed her concerns that the Architectural firm will run the costs and the District will get nothing. Cynthia Gardner expressed her displeasure with the Prudential Committee discussion of the School Committee property. She asked when did the Committee ever discuss a Space Needs Assessment? When did the Committee ever discuss who was going to do the assessment? When did the Committee ever discuss hiring this company to do the assessment? She also said the Committee needs to get their terminology correct. The transfer is with the Town of Barnstable not the Barnstable County. She also asked if an RFP has been put out and when did the Committee discuss it? Fran Parks said the Prudential Committee hasn't discussed it. It came from the Fire Commissioners. There was no need for an RFP because the District had engaged the firm previously. Mini McConnell asked Fran Parks to read a letter into the records of her opinion for the school property into the records.

Carol Zais suggested a workshop on the School Property uses before the meeting. Tallying up the responses to determine what the citizens would like to do with the property. Fran Parks thanked her for input.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 26.

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.