

COTUIT FIRE DISTRICT
Prudential Committee
Regular Meeting

Minutes
December 26, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by the Chairman, Laurie Hadley. Also present were members Amy Kates and Rick Barry, as well as the District Treasurer, Agnes Murray; the District Clerk, Charles Eager; and the District Moderator, Alison Lowe. Several members of the public were also in attendance.

Public comment was called for and the Chair recognized Mr. Ken Molloy. Mr. Molloy had several questions regarding the contract awarded for Freedom Hall and the overall bidding process.

Cynthia Gardner stated she had experienced a problem obtaining minutes from the District Clerk. This appeared to be the result of a mix-up in e-mail addresses. She also requested information regarding the expenses incurred by the winning candidate for Fire Commissioner in the last election, specifically who had paid for the election signs for Commissioner Field.

The committee then reviewed the minutes of a special meeting held on December 12. Ms Kates objected to a reference to the “rescinding” of Mr. David Kerr’s original contract. It was agreed that the matter had been discussed but no vote had been taken. The minutes will be changed to reflect this and were approved as amended.

The minutes of the November 28th meeting were then reviewed and the word “minutes” was apparently omitted in the 4th line of the second paragraph. It was agreed that this would be corrected, and the minutes were approved. Also it was agreed that the word “demanded” would be removed from a paragraph concerning the Fire Chief’s responsibility concerning wiring in Freedom Hall. The minutes were approved with these changes.

With regard to the Treasurer’s report, Ms. Kates had questions regarding balances of several of the bank accounts and the source of funds in each. She also had a question regarding the appropriation for street lights. Her questions were satisfactorily answered by the Treasurer. She asked Ms. Murray if she believed the district had the ability to enter into an “at will” lease. Ms. Murray was not sure if the District could enter into such a lease. The Treasurer’s report was accepted.

Mr. Barry began questioning Agnes Murray about answers she gave to the attorney conducting a deposition in the litigation against the District. When asked by Ms. Kates as to where he had obtained this information, Ms. Hadley indicated that the deposition had been e-mailed to her by Ron Mycock, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Ms. Hadley stated that she had e-mailed the document to Rick Barry. Mr. Barry expressed his concerns about many of Ms. Murray’s answers in the deposition. Ms. Murray explained her reasoning for her answers, but appeared concerned about Prudential Committee members having this document.

Ms Fran Parks, chairman of the Freedom Hall ad hoc committee, gave a report on the work accomplished to date. This included pruning of the shrubs, removal of the ceiling, having the window wells dug out, and pouring concrete to elevate the window wells on the north side of the building. Work around the window wells was scheduled to begin in two days. The stairwell has been power-washed. Painting and reconfiguring the drains in the parking lot will have to be postponed until the asphalt plants reopen in the spring.

During removal of the ceiling, a corroded pipe, which was capped, fell out. The water was turned off, but the building was not drained as the heat is on. Also David Coleman has begun working on the exit lights. A lot of the wiring is the old cloth-covered type and should be replaced. The gutters were to be installed in a few days.

As Spencer Hallett has been used in the past for routine plumbing maintenance. A motion was made, seconded, amended and voted to authorize Ms. Parks to contract him to do any immediate work required so that the water can be turned back on.

The Chairman introduced the subject of health insurance reform. Apparently all the other Districts in Barnstable have been working on this for quite some time. According to Ms Murray, who stated she was the District's voting member on the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group, that organization has already voted to increase deductibles and co-pays.

The new law requires that the District adopt MGL Chapter 32B, sections 21 through 23. There seems to be a difference of opinion as to whether or not this can be done by the Prudential Committee, as the Appropriate Public Authority or if a special district meeting will be required. In addition, two different panels must be named. One must include a union member and a retiree.

The last item on the agenda was a review of the applicants for the Assistant Treasurer's position. The committee discussed four of the fifteen candidates. It was agreed that the others fell into two categories: extremely overqualified or under-qualified. Three candidates were selected for interviews and it was agreed that these would take place following a workshop to be held on January 7th.

Upon motion made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted

LAURIE C. HADLEY
Chairman and Clerk