



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451
COTUIT, MASS. 02635

January 27, 2021

Town Council Members, Town of Barnstable (TOB)

Mark Ells, Town Manager, TOB

367 Main Street

Hyannis, MA 02601

Subject: Cotuit Elementary School Property

Honorable Council Members and Town Manager

The Cotuit Fire District's Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC) remains very concerned and is committed to being directly involved in any changes in management and land use at the Cotuit Elementary School property. As such, at our December 16, 2020 public meeting, BOWC unanimously voted to support the District's intentions to obtain this property for the people of the Village of Cotuit.

As you know, the Elementary School site lies within a defined wellhead protection area and is directly up gradient from one of our primary drinking water withdrawal wells. These spatial relationships mean that any pollutants applied to the landscape or accidentally discharged at this property are highly likely to impact our drinking water wells and therefore the supply of potable water to thousands of homes.

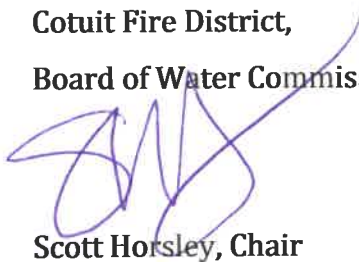
Furthermore, as our technology and understanding of water contamination and treatment improves, it is our responsibility to preserve options for our future water supply. One thing we know with certainty is that as our population continues

to use the land for sewage disposal, storm water management, and ornamental landscaping, pollutants are being introduced to our aquifer. Many of the chemicals that originate from those practices are hazardous for human consumption and in the future will likely result in the need for the Village of Cotuit to install and maintain water treatment systems. As previously described, the site in discussion here is a potential location for future installation of water treatment facilities, as it is contiguous with one of our five pumping stations and one of our large storage tanks. For those reasons, we feel it imperative that the land remains available for the water district to use if that need arises.

In closing, we are actively serving on a District subcommittee tasked with exploring the transfer of property from the TOB to the Cotuit Fire District and fully support their efforts to acquire this parcel. It is our intent to preserve our village water and its natural resources to the best of our abilities and we feel strongly that any decision regarding the Cotuit Elementary School property has a direct bearing on our ability to ensure that on behalf of our district residents. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns with this matter.

Respectfully Submitted.

Cotuit Fire District,
Board of Water Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SH', is written over the text of the signature line.

Scott Horsley, Chair