



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451

COTUIT, MASS. 02635

04/19/2017

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Ted Barnicle, Commissioner Don Campbell and Commissioner Vic Mastro were present as was Superintendent, Chris Wiseman.

Also in attendance was Russ Kleekamp from GHD Engineering.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m and was opened to public comment.

Wayne Collucini, 476 Main Street: Mr. Collucini expressed his concern for the location of the proposed cellular tower and offered his assistance based on his prior experience as a water commissioner and engineer in New York. Mr. Barnicle recommended that Mr. Collucini contact Russ Kleekamp to discuss directly.

Amy Kates, 4782 Falmouth Road: Asked if the commissioners had considered putting the Solar Project on the ballot for the upcoming District Election. Ms. Kates stated that many residents who were not represented or in attendance at the last meeting or at the Town of Barnstable meeting had expressed support of the project.

Jessica Rapp-Grasseti, Main St.: Asked if the Policy Advisory Committee had a long range capital plan that included any of the Water Department projects including the upcoming proposed appropriation for the MassDEP required repairs and upgrades for the pumping stations. Mr. Wiseman stated that the appropriation being brought forward for the district meeting was a recent development based on the permanent treatment of our water supply and the sanitary survey completed on our water system and not part of a previous long term capital plan. He also noted that these improvements are mandated by MassDEP to be in compliance with their regulations. They were recommended during last year's sanitary inspection and needed to be brought forth at the annual budget meeting to be funded by special appropriation.

Public comment concluded.

The 03/15/2017 monthly meeting minutes were approved and the warrants were signed.

Mr. Wiseman reviewed the water quality testing results for the month of March. All tests results were negative including the quarterly MTBE testing results.

Monthly Pumpage Results is as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>+/-</u>
March	9,753,000	8,750,000	-1,003,000

There were 2 replacement services and 0 new services in March.

Superintendent Wiseman noted that the Station #5 generator project was complete and all reimbursement funds from FEMA have been received as of April 10th, 2017.

Commissioner Mastro asked if there was a new date for the decommissioning and demolition of the Main Street tank. This will be addressed in the GHD update.

Russ Kleekamp of GHD Engineering updated the commissioners on the ongoing projects with GHD. The Main Street tank has a new demolition date of 5/15/17. There is a meeting next week with T-Mobile, Biszko Construction and Centerline. Russ addressed Mr. Collucini's questions regarding the location of the tank. The minimum setback is 200 feet and not in a straight line of sight. The options for the tank location are limited by abutting properties, and they are trying to work with the existing access road to reduce the need for tree cutting. The carriers can't relocate more than 500 feet from the existing location. Given these constraints the only possible location is North of the existing site. It is about 325 feet off of Main Street - back and to the left of the existing tank.

Mr. Kleekamp referenced the Tower North Lease noting that it has been reviewed and approved by Atty. Rick Mann. Mr. Wiseman noted that we are waiting for the insurance company to review the liability limits and the water commissioners unanimously voted for Chairman Barnicle to sign the lease once the insurance review is complete. Mr. Kleekamp discussed the building and review process including the public outreach meetings with the Civic Associate and the Town of Barnstable for permitting. He emphasized that this project is detrimental for continued comprehensive coverage for the residents of Cotuit with cell phone coverage.

Mr. Kleekamp also discussed the status of the USDA funding, noting that the \$2M in financing was completed in February and that the first reimbursement of \$69,000 had been received. He has submitted for a 2nd reimbursement of \$171,000.

Zak Farkes from Borrego Solar was not in attendance at the meeting but emailed an update that the restoration plan was not yet complete and that he would be in touch prior to the May meeting.

The Fiscal Year 2018 budget was presented to the Prudential Committee on April 10th. Commissioner Mastro and Superintendent Wiseman answered questions that were raised, specifically regarding the special appropriation request. The Prudential Committee questioned the proposed salary increase. Chairman Barnicle spoke in favor of the 3% increase, as did Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Mastro. Commissioner Mastro noted that the difference between the 2.5% recommended by the Prudential Committee and the 3% recommended by the BOWC was approximately \$1,400 and that the cost of hiring, training and licensing new employees far exceeds that. Commissioner Mastro referenced a survey of salaries from neighboring districts and noted that the district's employees were far undercompensated in relation to their counterparts and that the district needed to take steps to retain their good employees. Commissioner Mastro shared his work in conjunction with the Policy Advisory Committee to establish standardized position descriptions and grade levels and once complete would be proposing an adjustment to bring the salaries in line with other districts. Mr. Wiseman also noted that he spoke to someone at Barnstable County Retirement Board and they are voting on 4/25/17 to set the Cost of Living increase for retired employees. They are authorized by the state to vote for an adjustment up to 3%. The BOWC unanimously voted to recommend the budget as proposed in the amount of \$621,300. The

documentation is due to the Prudential Committee for their meeting on Monday, April 24th.

Commissioner Campbell asked about the question raised at the Prudential Committee meeting by Chairwoman Parks and former treasurer, Mike Daley regarding the USDA funding. Mr. Wiseman confirmed that the USDA funding in question had been received in February but the deposit was not coded properly by finance, therefore it was not identified as USDA funding. This has been corrected. Mr. Wiseman referenced an email from the former treasurer dating back to November of 2016 that indicated that he was expecting the grant funds to be received in 12 equal monthly payments. It was the understanding of the commissioners and the engineer that we had to spend the funds in order to be reimbursed for them, hence the submittals by GHD. Mr. Wiseman will follow up with the engineer, the USDA representative, Ron Koontz, and with Mr. Daley to clarify this information.

The commissioners announced that they will be hosting an open house at the West Street tank. The date will be set at the next meeting.

Mr. Wiseman noted that the BOWCs have been invited by Janet Milkman of the Barnstable Land Trust to the unveiling of the new Lowell Land sign at 10am on Friday, April 21st.

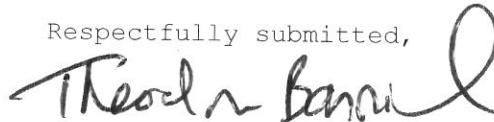
According to the Cotuit Currents Newsletter, The Civic Association will be hosting the budget and candidate's night on May 16th at 7:30pm. The district election will take place on May 30th, and the Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 31st. Their June meeting will focus on water quality issues and Town Manager Mark Ells will be in attendance. Mrs. Phyllis Miller (from the audience) clarified that the water quality referenced was not drinking water but estuary related.

Commissioner Barnicle inquired about the Public Employee Committee that met on April 11th. Ms. Parks clarified that the state law indicates that the committee members represent union members only and that the committee consists of a Fire Dept. representative and a Retiree Representative. Her role was to open and record the meeting. The board discussed how to distribute a surplus of health care premiums that occurred based on a change in co-payments and deductibles.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00pm at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore Barnicle", written in a cursive style.

Theodore Barnicle, Chairman

Cc: Prudential Committee