



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451

COTUIT, MASS. 02635

01/15/2020

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall at 5:45 p.m. Chairman Mark Robinson, Commissioner Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Assistant Superintendent Sean Bergman were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and opened to public comment; there was no public comment at this time.

Minutes from the 11/20/19 meeting and Warrants #29, 30 and 31 were reviewed and approved.

The district's water quality was reviewed, noting that MassDEP has indicated that our application for testing has been approved and testing will take place sometime between mid-February and the end of the Fiscal year.

Superintendent Wiseman also contacted his counterparts at other districts in the Town of Barnstable regarding the sodium levels in their water supply. He indicated that three departments have responded, all noting increased Sodium levels over the past ten years. He also noted that Hyannis Water has indicated that their levels are higher and believes that it is a result of the town switching from sand to salt for road treatment. The board discussed the impact to our district and discussed contacting private developments that directly abut our wellfields to see how their roads are treated. The commissioners discussed making changes to the Sodium trend graph to make it easier to read and interpret. Mr. Wiseman also noted that the 2019 Consumer Confidence Report includes the required health statement regarding sodium in the drinking water.

The Superintendent report was given for the prior two months.

Monthly Pumpage Results is as follows:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>+/-</u>
November	7,468,000	6,991,000	+477,000
December	7,647,000	6,946,000	+701,000

Stats:

There was one new service and one replacement service in November, and one radial crack in a 6" water main that was repaired in December.

Following up on items from the previous meeting, Mr. Wiseman gave these updates:

- West Street Tank Cleaning: He has signed an agreement with Utility Services to clean the exterior of the West St. tank, the interior of the Santuit Tank and complete the sanitary inspections in the spring of 2020. This expense is to be paid from the USDA Maintenance Reserve Account.
- SCADA System Upgrades: Station #5 is in the process of being converted and should be ready to go online by January 16th. Station #3 conversion is complete.

The board then reviewed and discussed the Water Quality and Treatment Report completed by Tata & Howard in June of 2019. The primary contaminant noted in the report was Manganese with only one data point out of thirty that exceeded the suggested maximum contamination level (SMCL). The board also noted that, as the PFOA/PFOS testing has not yet been completed, a second review and recommendation may be necessary. Mr. Wiseman will invite a representative from Tata & Howard to attend a future meeting to review their recommendations. Based on the results noted in this survey, the board feels that no immediate action is necessary, but it is a good basis for the discussions currently taking place with the Policy Advisory group regarding long term planning for the district. There is also a hope that should the district implement an irrigation policy (see next discussion), that it could have a profound impact on the amount/type of treatment needed to provide quality drinking water to the district.

Commissioner Horsley reviewed the draft water conservation and irrigation policy. He outlined his theory that approximately half of the district's pumpage is used for irrigation and by combining the USGS work with his modeling for Little River and the surrounding wetlands there appears to be a direct connection between the drawdown of water and the levels of the river. One solution to this would be to implement an irrigation policy, reducing waste and requiring homeowners to switch current automatic systems over to onsite irrigation wells would accomplish several objectives. It would reduce the expense to the district in treating drinking-quality water which is then used to irrigate lawns and could possibly reduce the future need for water treatment by implementing fertigation wells. It was noted that much of the language in the proposed policy was replicated from what the Town of Mashpee has implemented. The board discussed the pros and cons of putting this policy into action including how to enforce it. They will continue to review and discuss this at the next regular meeting and include ways to encourage conservation and efficiencies through public education.

The board reviewed and approved a letter that Commissioner Horsley and Chairman Robinson composed to the town manager, Mr. Mark Ells regarding the former Cotuit Elementary School.

Fran Parks, Chairperson of the Prudential Committee, was in attendance to discuss the warrant review and approval process with the board. It was noted that a line in the bylaw would need to be changed and Commissioner Horsley will address that with the bylaw committee at their next meeting on January

28th. They proposed moving the language regarding the certification of expenses under the responsibility of the Superintendent rather than the board. Ms. Parks also requested that the warrants be forwarded to the administration department on Tuesdays rather than Thursdays. They agreed that this change can be implemented but that they would continue to review and approve warrants until the bylaw can be amended.

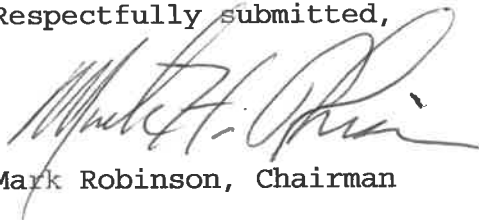
Several agenda items were deferred until the next meeting. Ms. Parks asked that Chairman Robinson and Superintendent Wiseman attend the February PruComm meeting to provide a mid-year update. This meeting will take place on Monday, February 24th.

Chairman Robinson proposed an edit to the district website URL which will be printed on the flushing notice to be included with the March Minimum Use bills.

Commissioner Hoppensteadt noted that the Policy Advisory group has met twice and will meet again in April. He feels that they are having productive discussions regarding creating and implementing some policy that will address some of the concerns raised by district residents at the recent special district meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 19th at 5:45pm at Freedom Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Robinson", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Robinson, Chairman