



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District Water Department

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

08/17/2022

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager Jen Nash were present. Commissioner Robinson joined the meeting at 5:40pm.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. and was opened to public comment. There were no members of the public present.

The minutes of the July 20th meeting were reviewed and approved.

The water quality report was given noting that there were no total coliform detects in July. Sodium results were the same as June. Superintendent Wiseman spoke with Bruce Young (MRWA) who advised that homeowners are a relatively small contributing factor to the elevated levels. Road salt is the major contributor. He advised that we petition the town to equip their trucks with a GPS system that reduces the distribution of road salt in low salt zones. PFOA/PFOS samples were also taken this month. All levels are below 10 at each station. They are being sent to the state for review to determine the future testing requirements.

The Superintendent report was given for the prior month.

Monthly Pumpage Results are as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>+/-</u>
July	41,514,000	32,641,000	+8,873,000

Stats:

Replacement Services = 1 (Copper Service); New Services = 0; Leaks = 0

Updates:

- High pumpage is directly related to rainfall. Commissioner Robinson noted that if the precipitation numbers are annualized only 1 of 4 years comes close to the average for Cape Cod (48 inches).
- Samples wells are close to dropping below the 25th percentile which could trigger additional/mandatory pumping restrictions and conservation measures. Every Door Direct Mailing (EDDM) was sent out but was not received by all residents. New signs have been ordered for Level I, II

and III drought conditions and will posted around the village as soon as they are received. The declaration was also posted on the district website and on social media.

- The "Ready-Start" Motors may need to be replaced. It would cost approximately \$100,000 to replace them. Eversource has an incentive program where they would pay \$87,500 of the cost and it could save us \$16,000 annually in energy costs. As the grant would require us to spend the money first, and then be reimbursed, it would require a vote at a district meeting (ADM or Special) to approve the funding.
- Field Operator, Jon Medeiros has passed his T4 Water Treatment exam and is now an operator in training. To become a full member, he must complete a specified number of hours of hands-on training and then he can complete the application for his full T4 license. He now holds a D2 (Distribution) and T4 (Treatment) license.
- Water Storage Tank inspections went well. There is a significant amount of settlement to be removed and that will be scheduled at a later date.

Commissioner Horsley asked to add a reminder to review the water rates after the December usage is complete and feels that based on the amount of water being consumed that maybe the rates are not prohibitive enough to encourage conservation.

Commissioner Horsley noted that Tom Carbareri of Sole Source Consulting, LLC is now under agreement and is investigating existing test wells and will make recommendations. This will be added to the agenda for the September meeting. He also noted that there was a considerable amount of interest in the innovative septic solutions at the Civic Association meeting that was held on August 16th.

Commissioner Horsley also noted that there are ARPA (America Recovery Plan Act) funds available for Water Quality and Wastewater Programs and that it is open to Water Districts and Non-Profit agencies for the implementation of innovative technologies. A letter of interest is due by September 30th and Commissioner Horsley will draft a letter of interest on behalf of the district. If the district were to pass the first qualification round funds would be awarded in the spring. He will need to confirm if it is a reimbursement grant. He noted that it is a \$500,000 grant and it would cost up to \$35,000 per system and could help us replace 15 to 20 systems.

The commissioners reviewed and recommended some additional edits to the Sodium Education and Outreach letter. Commissioner Hoppensteadt will come by the office to review and sign the final letter. This will be distributed electronically to those residents with an email address on file and sent via hard copy to the other residents. It will also be sent to the Civic Association for distribution to their Constant Contact Group.

Superintendent Wiseman recapped his conversation with Attorney Mark Boudreau and Attorney Rich Sandman regarding the PFOA/PFOS class action suit. Attorney Boudreau advised that there were no downsides to joining the suit. Sandman Associates represented the district with the MTBE suit several years ago. The board voted unanimously to join the suit.

The final lien warrant was reviewed and approved. Sixteen accounts will be submitted to the town on August 18th.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners will take place on Wednesday, September 21, at 5:30 pm. This meeting will take place in person at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Hoppensteadt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being more prominent and the last name "Hoppensteadt" written in a continuous script.

Tom Hoppensteadt, Chairman