



# Cotuit Fire District

## Water Department

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10/19/2022

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash were present. Commissioner Scott Horsley had a scheduling conflict and was not able to attend.

The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. and was opened to public comment. There were no comments at this time.

The minutes of the September 21st meeting were reviewed and approved.

The water quality report was given noting that there were no total coliform detects in September. Inorganic testing was done showing trace amounts of Barium in the public water supply, but well below action levels. The Cyanide samples were rejected by DEP due to the processing method used by the lab. New samples were taken this week and will be processed correctly at no charge. Chlorine byproducts (THM and HAA5) samples were completed, with results also well below the action level. Sodium results were reviewed noting that all 5 stations are now over 20 mg/L. The staff and commissioners will continue to sample and monitor on a quarterly basis. A public education letter was emailed to approximately 900 residents with email addresses on file with the WD and included in the Cotuit Currents Newsletter. The department received some great questions and positive responses to the mailing.

The Superintendent report was given for the prior month.

Monthly Pumpage Results are as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>+/-</u>
September	23,471,000	21,934,000	+1,537,000

Stats:

Rainfall in September 2022 = 3"; Rainfall in September 2021 = 11.3"  
Replacement Services = 0; New Services = 0; Leaks = 0

Updates:

- Cape Cod and the Islands Drought Level was reduced from Level III to Level II on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Level III signs were replaced with Level II and the "No Lawn Watering" signs were removed.

- The cost for the VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) replacement at 4 stations is \$12,000 for the district. The Cape Light Incentive Program will pay the additional \$32,000 and will save the district with High Demand Charges for Electricity every time the pumps come on.
- Documentation requested from Baron & Budd regarding the PFAS Class action suit have been sent. No other update at this time.

Tom Cambareri is continuing to work with Field Operator Jon Medeiros on accessing and accessing the feasibility of the existing test wells for Source Water monitoring and protection.

Mrs. Nash noted that the Letter of Interest for the ARPA Funding through Barnstable County was submitted prior to the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. An update from Jennifer Loughran noted that there was \$140M in LOI project applications for \$5M in available funding. If the LOI was accepted, the portal was to open on October 14<sup>th</sup> for applications for the funding. Due to the volume of applications, the County is already behind their deadline and the portal link has not yet been sent to applicants.

The department continues the Source Water Protection program, this season by targeting sodium levels. In addition to the public outreach, we continue to work with the State and local D.O.T. One resident noted that they get their deicing substance from the Town Transfer Station. Commissioner Robinson will contact Dan Santos to understand the makeup of that substance and urge them to replace any Sodium Chloride compounds with Calcium Chloride compounds. The town spends a significant amount of money on Water Management so this would be a win/win for both agencies. Commissioner Hoppensteadt will circle back with his contact at the state level as we prepare for the winter season. Mrs. Nash will gather data from Cape Cod Water District CCR's to better evaluate regional concerns with Sodium.

Commissioner Robinson is continuing his work on an "Affordable Access to Drinking Water" policy. Mrs. Nash is working with the billing software engineer to gather the relevant data for this analysis. We will keep this on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Commissioners discussed the signage around the district, both in general and specific to the Drought Level notifications. Next year with the new billing systems notification capabilities it will be easier to notify district residents should drought conditions be in effect and the department will work on better or consolidated signage.

The Board approved the release of the Muni-Link contract (with pricing redacted) to the Cape Cod Cooperative Bank so that the agencies can work together on behalf of the district to implement ACH processing and online bill payments with the new billing software.

The board also approved Superintendent Wiseman's request to close the office on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> with staff on-call and no overtime wages during regular business hours.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, at 5:45 pm pending the confirmed availability of Commission Horsley. Alternately, it will take place on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will take place in person at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tom Hoppensteadt".

Tom Hoppensteadt, Chairman