



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

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

04/19/2023

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall at 5:45 p.m. Chairman Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash were present. Note: no recording of the meeting is available due to issues with the equipment at FH.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and was opened to public comment. There were none.

The minutes of the March 15, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved.

There were no total coliform hits. Samples were taken for the quarter in April 2023 for PFOA/PFOS at Stations #1 & #4 as well as Nitrate, Nitrite, Manganese, and Sodium.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>+/-</u>
March	9,048,000	6,984,000	-2,064,000

New Service = 0, Replacement Services = 1, Leaks/Repairs = 0

Project Updates:

- The VFD's (Variable Frequency Drives) installation has been done at Station #3. The other stations are scheduled over the next few weeks. No issues with the new VFD that was installed.
- New Service Truck delivery is still pending.
- The annual flushing program has begun. Only 1 day of dirty water complaints.
- Veolia is scheduled to begin the interior tank cleaning on 5/10 and 5/17. Each tank will be offline for 3-4 days to be drained, cleaned, refilled and sampled before they can be put back online. The commissioners continued their discussion on cleaning the outside of the tanks. Last cost estimate was more than \$16k and last time it was done it only lasted a matter of months. The department has received complaints about the aesthetics of the tank, but the discoloration does not pose a health or structural risk.

Discussions:

- The commissioners reviewed and discussed the proposed regulations for PFOS/PFOA and UCMR Testing posed by the EPA. If the recommended standard

is 4 ppt (parts per trillion) then all systems will be required to treat. Currently, the district complies (below the proposed action levels) but not comfortably so. Based on this discussion, the board recommended some changes to the 5yr. CAP plan/budget.

- Superintendent Wiseman has a "TEAMS" meeting with Budd & Budd regarding the PFOA/PFOS Class Action Suit. The topic is the proposed EPA regulations.
- Industry Updates include attendance at the BCWUA Water Fair on Cybersecurity, the NEWWA annual conference in Worcester where PFOA/Emerging Contaminants, Emergency Preparedness and other topics were discussed. MWWA is hosting an information session regarding Grant Fund availability for PFOA/PFOS and regarding the retirement age for water utility workers. The Board asked to have the weekly newsletter from MWWA forwarded to them. Also, Operators Jon & Matt are going to work with the surrounding districts/member utilities and Jason Blais, who is the training coordinator with MRWA, to host a local tabletop training exercise on emergency preparedness.

Chairman Hoppensteadt updated the commissioners on the feedback received from the Prudential Committee regarding the FY24 Salary budget. The commissioners discussed the reasoning behind their recommendation for merit increases for the department staff vs. a one-time bonus. They confirmed their recommendation for merit increases and voted to move forward with the O&M budget as put forward at the March meeting.

Chairman Hoppensteadt also updated the commissioners on his meeting with Atty. Mark Boudreau on several district matters, including the enabling legislature, the use of district funds and matter related to the test well project. Based on this discussion, the commissioners will not be moving forward with the proposed stabilization fund and will likely pursue making changes to the enabling legislation in the next fiscal year to be able to better protect the source water and wellfields. Based on this discussion, they voted to make several changes to the 5yr. CAP plan, including removing the Wellhead protection funds from the FY24 appropriation, updating the cost of the treatment plant (FY28), and adding funds for design and development (FY27).

Source Water Protection Plan - Tom Cambareri/Sole Source LLC is contracting with Desmond Well Drilling for the installation of the wells on Mariner Circle and Santuit-Newtown Road, and the district will reimburse Sole Source LLC for the expense. The Certificate of Insurance (COI's) for both the district and Sole Source LLC have been submitted to the town, along with the signed agreement for the work to be done on Town owned land along the Little River bed. Mr. Cambareri will be invited to a future meeting to provide an update on this project as well as his recommendations regarding PRB's (Permeable Reactive Barriers) on district land to help protect the source water that supplies the district's drinking water supply.

In conjunction with the Civic Association, Commissioner Robinson presented the draft Affordable Access to Drinking Water proposal for district questions and feedback. There were some great comments received about the policy, both pro and con opinions were heard, and Commissioner Robinson feels that he has

enough information for appropriate revisions to the draft. Further research will be done on the lower and upper price tiers, the elasticity of demand for the higher water users, the "break even" point, and estimations for the drop-off of usage. Commissioner Robinson has agreed to withdraw the proposal for FY24 and reconsider it for FY25 after the policy has been redrafted and reviewed by the district's legal counsel. Chairman Hoppensteadt reported that the district counsel told him the previous draft was okay legally.

A leak adjustment request was reviewed for the property at 112 Cap'n Samadrus Road. Based on the current policy, the BOWC voted to approve the request for relief. They have requested to review the policy at a future meeting to make modifications for those seeking relief from an irrigation/non-essential usage leak.

Commissioners Horsley and Robinson presented the retiring Chairman with a card and thanked him for his six years of stellar serve to the Commission.

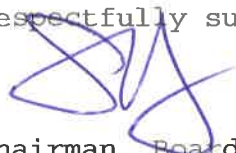
Upcoming Meetings:

- Budget & Candidates Night, hosted by the Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association, to be held via Zoom on 5/23/23 at 7pm.
- Annual District Meeting, May 31, 2023, at 7:30pm at Freedom Hall.
- Next Regular BOWC Meeting, Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 5:45pm at Freedom Hall.

The meeting was again opened to public comment. Ms. Parks recommended that the department implement an outreach campaign to the high end water users. Mr. Ferrill wanted to make the board aware that damaged pool liners at the homes of customers with automatic pool fillers will cause high usage as well as irrigation leaks, which should be considered if they revise the leak adjustment policy.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman, Board of Water Commissioners