



## BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

# Cotuit Fire District

## Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451

COTUIT, MASS. 02635

06/21/2023

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall and via Zoom at 5:45 p.m. Commissioner David Churbuck, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash were present. Note: Commissioner Robinson joined via zoom and was present for new business discussions.

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

Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the recent water quality testing results for total coliform. There were no detections. Sodium samples taken in April showed little change over the prior quarter. Mr. Wiseman has been in contact with Tighe & Bond, the firm that conducts our groundwater monitoring between Station #5 and the Stratford Pond Condominiums and asked them to add sodium to their testing. PFOA/PFOS6 samples were taken at Station #1 and Station #4. Results continue to stay under the MCL. UCMR5 results are not in yet. Nitrate results were reviewed and are also close to the same as last year. We will update the graph created by Commissioner Horsley's students last year with the new results and bring it to the next meeting.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>+/-</u>
April	10,471,000	10,034,000	-437,000
May	17,035,000	20,497,000	+3,462,000

New Service = 3, Replacement Services = 0, Leaks/Repairs = 0

May 2023 had only slightly more rain than May 2022 (2.58" vs 2.21")

Ran with only 1 tank for a week while the Santuit Tank was cleaned, pumpage includes draining and refilling the tank. The pumps ran constantly to keep up with demand.

### Project Updates:

- The VFD's (Variable Frequency Drives) installation is complete. Will monitor the Eversource bills for affect on energy demand and expense.
- JR Gallagher and Jon Medeiros attended the BCWUA/NEWWA Water Fair held at Mass Maritime Academy, received TCH credits and network with industry professionals.
- Superintendent Wiseman forwarded the Mass Water Works Association Newsletter to the commissioners. The newsletter contained information regarding current available grant funding.

- Bruce Young of Mass Rural Water Works stopped by the office. He is available for departmental needs.
- The Superintendent will be investigating the potential for water main improvements on Sears Avenue as construction has begun on Pine Road. Service for this new building was tapped on the Sears Ave main, which is only a 2" main. Additional construction in this area will necessitate upgrading the size of the main.
- The new service truck was delivered. Retired truck (surplus equipment) was sold via closed bid for a sum of \$8,200. Proceeds are returned to the general fund.
- The annual flushing program has begun. Only 1 day of dirty water complaints.
- Veolia completed the interior tank cleaning on 5/10. They are coming back this week to install a "duck bill" on the overflow pipe. The tank was offline for one week to drain, clean, refill and sample. Due to the length of the project and the contractor schedule, it was decided to postpone the cleaning of the West St. Tank until September 2023. Contract pricing will remain in effect.
- Drought Level and Non-Essential water use definitions were printed on "cosmic orange" cards and sent via Every Door Direct Mailing to residents of the district. Drought Level I has been declared for Cape Cod and the appropriate signs will be posted throughout the district and on the district web site and social media pages.
- Superintendent Wiseman will continue to share information with the commissioners on the pending PFOS/PFOA litigation.

The minutes of the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Horsley noted one amendment to the PRB definition (Permeable Reactive Barriers). They were accepted as amended. The May 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes were reviewed and accepted.

#### New Business:

- Scott Horsley was elected as Chairman for the next fiscal year.
- Mark Robinson will serve on the Policy Advisory Committee.
- David Churbuck will serve on the Bylaw Committee and the School Property Subcommittee.

The lien list was reviewed, noting that there were 37 accounts with balances totaling \$20,843.22 and are more than 365 days past due. Thirteen accounts have been collected through the first round of contact, leaving a remaining balance of \$16,190.31. Two accounts have committed to paying before the July due date. The second round of letters will be sent out. Any remaining balances as of the July BOWC meeting will be submitted to the Town for collection.

The board reviewed the annual service bid responses and voted to award the contract to the lowest bidder, Bortolotti Construction, Inc. of Marston Mills.

Chairman Horsley will work with Office Manager Nash to draft a revision to the leak adjustment policy shifting more onus to the homeowner in the case of an irrigation/non-essential use leak.

Commissioner Robinson noted that Mosswood Cemetery has implemented a "Green Burial" policy. Superintendent Wiseman has met with the Superintendent at the cemetery, evaluated the designated area and confirmed that it is outside of Zone II area of contribution to the wellfield.

Superintendent Wiseman noted that the department is working on a revision of the Employee Handbook. It will be reviewed by Warren Rutherford and circulated to the commissioners for review.

Source Water Protection Plan - Chairman Horsley continued the previous meeting discussion regarding the Source Water Protection Plan and the authorities afforded the commissioners under the enabling legislation. The commissioners voted unanimously to retain the District's council (Mark Boudreau) to draft an amendment to the legislation to allow for the implementation of Source Water Protection practices on privately owned land.

Superintendent Wiseman noted that Tom Cambareri is still waiting on permits from the town to install the test wells on Little River/Town property within the wellfield. The contract is being reviewed by the town's legal department. The Mariner Circle and Santuit-Newtown Road test wells have been installed. Chairman Horsley will contact Tom to discuss mapping and measuring levels in the new test wells and add VOC sampling to his scope of services.

Superintendent Wiseman will take Commissioner Churbuck on a tour of the department's properties.

Commissioner Churbuck noted that the Town Council included \$90k in their CAP plan for work on the Little River culvert, with the goal of restoring it as a herring run. Mr. Churbuck will contact Town Councilor Jessica Rapp-Grasseti to learn more.

Former Commissioner Hoppensteadt attended the meeting to tie up any loose ends, pass along information and wished the board continued success.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm at Freedom Hall. Commissioner Robinson noted that the echo on the zoom meeting was mostly inaudible, even with the new owl system. Based on this feedback, the July meeting will be in person only.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Horsley  
Chairman, Board of Water Commissioners