



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

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

07/25/2023

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. As State Representative Kip Diggs was in attendance to discuss the proposed legislature change, Chairman Horsley moved this item to the top of the agenda. Rep. Diggs recognized the importance of protecting the district's public water supply and credited the board with being proactive with this initiative. He stated that he would favorably support their motion to amend the enabling legislature so long as the residents of the district support the proposed changes. He advised the board that they should conduct a public outreach campaign, hold additional public education meetings and provide evidence of support or a majority vote of the residents.

The meeting was then opened to public comment on this topic.

Ted Barnicle, resident and former Water Commissioner expressed his concerns with the proposed I/A septic project that the board has been discussing. He noted that the board's intentions were good but felt that they were spending rate/taxpayer dollars in the wrong place. He noted that the town was already working on a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan and that the Board should bring the research they have done to that committee and ensure that protecting the public water supply was a priority of the project. He raised concerns about the cost of installing IA septic systems, the cost of maintaining them, the availability of servicing companies, the availability of parts and what responsibility the district would have in monitoring and maintaining these systems. He also asked what would happen to the district's investment if the DEP decided that I/A systems were not sufficient and enforced connection to the town wastewater treatment plant. Two other residents asked a few follow-up questions.

Members of the board responded to Mr. Barnicle's concerns noting that IA (Innovative and Alternative) septic solutions remove more pollutants than standard Title V, that connecting homes in the village to the town's wastewater treatment system was estimated to be up to 20 years out, and that it was more cost effective for homeowners who about the wellfield to install I/A systems than to connect to the town system. They also noted that until the legislature is updated, they have not made any decisions as to who would contract these services, whether it would be an RFP process, or any other specifics regarding the installation and maintenance of IA systems.

Having no further public comment, Rep. Diggs left the meeting and the agenda resumed.

Minutes of the June 21, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the recent water quality testing results for total coliform. There were no detections. Third quarter testing as just completed for Sodium and PFOS but results were not yet available.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>+/-</u>
June	25,479,000 gal.	23,074,000 gal.	-2,405,000 gal.

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

Project Updates:

- Contract for engineering services with GHD for the water main replacement project has been received and will be signed by Superintendent Wiseman. Cost of engineering services will be \$15,000.
- West Street tank cleaning has been scheduled for September 19th.
- PFOA/PFOS class action suit - some companies have filed for bankruptcy, and some have settled. Call with Budd & Budd is scheduled for August 1st.
- The department continues to receive calls from residents and well drilling companies for mark outs, as private irrigation wells continue to be installed in the district. The board discussed specifically one large user who had previously been underbilled for their usage due to an upgrade in meter and software technology. This has been rectified. The board asked if comparative consumption could be added to the bills. The office manager will follow up on this request.

In the interest of time, the Leak Rate Policy discussion, and the Affordable Access to Drinking Water proposal has been deferred to another meeting.

New Business:

The board will be attending the August 15th meeting hosted by the Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association to obtain input from the public on proposed future uses of the school property. They will be expected to give a short introduction regarding their position on the uses of the property and to be available for questions. Some of the proposed actions would be to demolish the building, keep the building as a community center, or to use the building for district offices. Patty Daly, resident in attendance at the meeting, expressed her hope for the use of the building as a multi-generational community center and noted specifically the value of the cafeteria and commercial kitchen. The board agrees that their primary role is to ensure any proposed usage is compatible with their objectives of protecting the wellfield as the school is in the Zone II of contribution and uses of such property are clearly defined

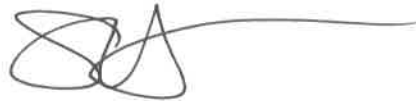
in Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's regulations governing drinking water supplies, specifically 310 CMR 22.00 (a) and (b). It is their understanding that the Prudential Committee plans to hold a special district meeting at a later date to make a final decision. It was also noted that the oil tank has been removed and that there were no leaks or evidence of contamination found. Mrs. Zais asked if the commissioners would consider moving the water department to this area if it were to be used for district offices. The commissioners agreed to evaluate the pros and cons of doing so and be ready to discuss this at their next meeting.

The commissioners reviewed the final lien list of customers with balances more than 365 days past due and will sign the warrant at their August meeting, turning the collection of these accounts over to the town.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14th at 5:45 pm at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Horsley
Chairman, Board of Water Commissioners