



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District Water Department

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

08/14/2023

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. and was opened to Public Comment.

Vic Mastro, former Water Commissioner was present and asked if the board was looking into the need of a water treatment plant in the near future, the type of treatment it would provide, the funding sources for it, and what the annual operating expense would be. He stated that he was not in favor of the I/A Septic systems that the board has proposed for source water protection and asked about the status of the town's CWMP (Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan). Chairman Horsley responded that the town's timeframe for reaching Cotuit was initially 20-30 years out. To expedite that timeline, the town needs additional funding. They also need to determine a location for the outflow of the treated water. Superintendent Wiseman noted that he has a meeting with representatives from Tata & Howard on Thursday, August 17th and will discuss updating the initial treatment plant design that they did for the district a few years ago to better answer Mr. Mastro's questions.

Minutes of the July 25, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the recent water quality testing results for total coliform. There were no detections. Routine Sodium samples were taken in July, not all the results are back yet. The ones that we did receive show a marginal increase at all the stations. Perchlorate, Secondary Contaminant, and Inorganic samples were taken in August, as well as PFOA/PFOS samples for the law firm that is representing the district in the class action suit. Results will be circulated when they are available.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>+/-</u>
July	41,514,000 gal.	27,172,000 gal.	-14,345,000 gal.

He noted that this was the 3rd lowest July pumpage in the last 19 years and that comparatively the rainfall in 2022 was .33" and 1.82" in 2023. He feels that irrigation is down due to the number of private onsite irrigation wells that have been installed in the district. The commissioners would like to

see this trend continue and will continue to monitor the usage for the remainder of the summer. They are cautiously optimistic that the conservation measures they have taken are making an impact on consumption, as well as lessening the strain on the District's pumps during peak times.

New Service = 2, Replacement Services = 0, Leaks/Repairs = 1

Project Updates:

- West Street tank cleaning has been scheduled for September 19th.
- Association news is quiet at this time. The next newsletter will be forwarded when it is received. NEWWA is holding a conference in Newport and MRWA is holding their "Trifecta" event in September, in Western Massachusetts which includes a half day of classes, followed by a BBQ and a Water Tasting Competition.

New Business:

In preparation for the Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association meeting to be held Tuesday, August 15th at 6:00pm at Freedom Hall, the Board compiled, discussed and voted unanimously to adopt a document entitled "The Board of Water Commissioners Recommendations Regarding the Cotuit Elementary School". This document will be distributed at the meeting and posted electronically on the Water Department website for public viewing. Chairman Horsley will present a summary of the recommendations at the meeting. A question was raised regarding the appropriation of funds for a district space needs study. It was determined that the study has not yet been done with regard to the school property and the Water Department would like that study to include the feasibility of relocating the office and lime batching facility to the property at 140 Old Oyster Road.

Chairman Horsley gave an update on the status of the test well installation in the wellfield on town property containing Little River. The authorization for this is still with the town's legal department for review, no response has yet been received. He also noted that he contacted Dan Santos and Rob Steen regarding the CWMP and the potential to expedite the timeframe for the sewer system to reach Cotuit. As noted above, the two major obstacles are funding and the discharge location. The town is working diligently to locate an area for discharging the treated water that will comply with the Clean Water Act and the Ocean Sanctuary Act.

The commissioner recapped the discussion with Representative Diggs regarding the amendments to the enabling legislation. They will work with the Civic Association to present this information in a larger public event to educate the public on this topic to gain the district support that Rep. Diggs is requesting to move forward.

The commissioners discussed the revised Affordable Access to Drinking Water plan as well as a change to the billing frequency. The department would like to eliminate the March and October minimum use bills, and go back to billing two times per year, including the minimum use tier and the meter fee all in

one with the excess use bill. This will also be discussed and presented at the Civic Association meeting.

The commissioners reviewed the final lien warrant with balances more than 365 days past due. It was accepted and signed by all three commissioners and will be processed and sent to the town for collection via the resident's tax bill.

Four leak adjustment requests were reviewed; 3 were approved and the board requested more time to review the 4th request. It will be put back on the agenda for the September meeting. Chairman Horsley proposed a change to the leak adjustment policy stating that an adjustment would not be provided if the leak was associated with an irrigation system that was not properly maintained. He will revise the wording and make a formal amendment request for board approval.

Superintendent Wiseman noted that revisions to the Employee Handbook are being made and reviewed by Warran Rutherford of The Executive Suite to ensure that it includes any new legislation adopted by the state and federal governments. Edits will be highlighted and submitted to the board for approval once received.

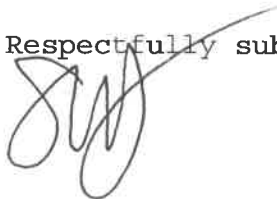
The meeting was again opened to the public for comment. Vic Mastro expressed concern regarding the impact of private onsite irrigation wells, the potential for contamination of the public water supply and noted that residents that can no longer install an inground irrigation system or afford a private irrigation well are watering with multiple sprinklers that are not set up on timers and sometimes run all night. He feels this is not effective.

Ms. Nash requested guidance from the commissioners on a letter promoting conservation addressed to consumers using more than 100k and 200k gallons of water in a six-month period. Commissioner Robinson will review the letter and make recommendations.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th at 5:45 pm at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SH' or 'Scott Horsley', written over the typed name.

Scott Horsley
Chairman, Board of Water Commissioners