



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451

COTUIT, MASS. 02635

10/25/2023

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, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash were present. Chairman Horsley was unable to attend, so Commissioner Robinson sat in as acting Chairman.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and was opened to Public Comment. PruComm Chair Fran Parks presented a current statement of Water Revenue and Expenses to the Board for their consideration.

Minutes of the September 19, 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 sampling for Perchlorate, Secondary Contaminants and Inorganic Contaminants were conducted. It was noted that sodium results were lower than previous samples, barium was detected, but levels were lower than previous samples and the potassium results were above prior sample results.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>+/-</u>
September	23,471,000 gal.	18,521,000 gal.	-4,950,000 gal.

Monthly pumpage continues to trend down, and precipitation levels continue to exceed the prior year.

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

Project Updates:

- West St. Tank Cleaning - project is complete, no incidents of dirty water or reduced pressure were received. The tank was offline for a total of 4 days for draining, cleaning, and sampling.
- Lewis Pond Road Water Main Upgrade - Contract with GHD was cancelled. We will be billed for any services rendered, and retain any materials produced relative to the project. A new agreement was signed with EDR to keep the project moving forward.
- PFAS litigation - There is a meeting scheduled for Friday, Oct. 27th for an update on the status of the class action suit.

- Staff Training - 2023 is a recertification year, staff training is ongoing to meet the Technical Credit Hour (TCH) requirements.

Old Business:

Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP): Tom Cambareri (Sole Source Consulting) has done some sampling of the test wells. Cost for the lab to process the samples is approximately \$1,600.

Affordable Access to Drinking Water (AADW): Commissioner Robinson submitted some information for publication in the November issue of the Cotuit Currents. He noted that it is a revenue neutral proposal by increasing the top pricing tiers (for usage over 100,000 gallons of water in a 6-month period) by 15%. In response to PruComm Chair Park's revenue/expense information he noted that if we do see a deficit, we can adjust the water rates again as necessary. There was no public comment on this topic during the meeting, however there were two emails received prior to the meeting. One email was in support of the proposed policy. The second resident requested some additional information for non-single-family homes and commercial properties, but it wasn't clear what was being requested. Office Manager Nash will contact the resident to clarify.

Leak Adjustment Policy Revision: Commissioner Horsley submitted suggested language for revising the leak adjustment policy specific to irrigation system leaks. Commissioner Robinson suggested that there be an alternate calculation rather than excluding irrigation leaks from relief. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

E-mail Addresses: Commissioner Churbuck reviewed what was discussed at the PruComm meeting regarding pricing for district email addresses, who uses what address, and how they are directed - as well as the results of some research he did with surrounding districts. He also reviewed the legal requirements should there be a request for information. After the discussion it was decided that nothing would be changed at this time and that they would continue to use personal email addresses for Water Department communications.

Employee Handbook Edits: Superintendent Wiseman has reviewed the proposed changes with Attorney Michael Pierce, a local employment law attorney recommended by District's Council, Mark Boudreau. The results of his review are pending and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Former School Property: The oil tank has been removed; no leaks detected. PruComm Chair Parks noted that Atty. Boudreau is working with the Town legal department on the deed. She will follow up with him for an update.

No new business was raised with the committee. The meeting was again opened to public comment, there was none.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15th at 5:45 pm at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark Robinson, Commissioner
Acting Chairman, Board of Water Commissioners