



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

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

01/17/2024

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held 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. There was none at this time.

Minutes of the December 20, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the recent water quality testing results for total coliform. There were no detections. No new sodium or PFOA/PFOS to review at this time. Sodium samples will be done in the current quarter. PFOA/PFOS will be sampled twice in 2024, beginning in April, at 3 stations. Chairman Horsley requested that the samples at the new test wells be coordinated with the required DEP sampling. He also inquired about the PFOS/PFOA results in surrounding districts. Superintendent Wiseman will coordinate this with Tom Cambareri. Commissioner Robinson noted that the annual AAPC State of the Water report has been released, and that Cotuit received a rating of excellent.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>+/-</u>
December	6,926,000 gal.	6,419,000 gal.	-543,000 gal.

Billing totals are down \$300,000 from the same period of the previous year.

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

Project Updates:

- Lewis Pond Road Water Main Upgrade - Mr. Wiseman will be meeting with the EDR Team next week to review the progress to date and begin preparing the bid package. We are projecting to release the bid package in the next month or two and be ready to begin the project this spring.
- Association News - Mostly classes and membership meetings. Mr. Wiseman will circulate the most recent MWWA newsletter.
- Staffing - The Field Operator position was posted at the beginning of December, with resumes/applications due by December 29th. Twenty-two applicants were reviewed, seven were interviewed and the pool was narrowed to four candidates. Superintendent Wiseman discussed the candidates with the Sr. Operators and Office Manager, and it was narrowed further to the top two candidates. Superintendent Wiseman made the decision to offer the position to Jonathan Brooks of Cotuit. His starting rate will be \$22/hr with a \$1.00/hr increase when he obtains his D1 and T1 license. Also, one field operator will be out on

family medical leave for an undetermined period. Superintendent Wiseman will be in touch with the Board Chair regarding the situation and will update when more information is available.

- Superintendent Wiseman received an invitation to attend a pre-planning meeting, hosted by Director Jenkins of the Planning & Development Department with the Town of Barnstable to discuss a proposed 40B Housing complex located at 4609 Falmouth Road, Cotuit. The 34-unit project is located in Zone II of the wellfield for wells 1,2 & 4. With the objective of protecting the district's source water supply, members of the Board will attend the meeting along with Superintendent Wiseman to express their opposition to this proposal.
- The account database has been updated with information regarding the installation of private onsite irrigation wells. We have documentation to support the installation of 102 wells in the district, 41 of which were installed in 2023. The previous rate increase was adopted in 2021. There were 25 wells installed in that year. Commissioner Robinson would be interested to see these locations GIS mapped to see how many of them are outside of Zone II.

Old Business:

Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) / Enabling Legislation: Chairman Horsley met with the district's attorney, Mark Boudreau to review and draft language for the ADM warrant which will expand the commissioner's authority to integrate the ability for water quality protection, working in a cooperative manner with private property owners. The Board intends to review this proposed change with the public at a meeting hosted by the Civic Association this spring, after which they will present to the PruComm for inclusion in the ADM warrant after gaining feedback from the community.

Affordable Access to Drinking Water (AADW): This proposal will be brought forward for Public Information sessions in the spring, as we approach budget planning for the new fiscal year. It will remain on the agenda as a reminder.

New Business:

FY25 Budget: Planning has begun for the FY25 Salary, Operating and Maintenance budget. The commissioners and superintendent will consider the 5 year Capital plan and forecast any anticipated expenditures. Chairman Horsley will work on the letter for the Annual Report, due to the clerk by March 1st.

Additional Comments: Commissioner Robinson noted that road salt use seems to be excessive this season. As we have already addressed this with State and Local DOT, Ms. Parks recommended that Chairman Horsley speak with the Town Councilor.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21st at 5:45 pm at via Zoom only. This will be a long meeting to include budget planning and the superintendent's review. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Horsley, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners