



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District
Water Department

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

11/15/2023

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. There was none at this time.

Minutes of the October 25, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Chairman Horsley abstained from the vote.

Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the recent water quality testing results for total coliform. There were no detections. Sodium results were down. The commissioners wish to send a letter to Cotuit Meadows, Stratford Ponds and the town with a reminder to use a salt alternative for road and surface treatment this winter. There has been a slight increase in Potassium in the water supply. The Superintendent will continue to investigate potential sources.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>+/-</u>
October	10,553,000 gal.	10,654,000 gal.	+101,000 gal.

Monthly pumping numbers for October include refilling the West Street tank after cleaning, which accounts for approximately 300,000 gallons of water. Rainfall was down in October 2023 (2.1") as compared to October 2022 (6.22").

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

Project Updates:

- Lewis Pond Road Water Main Upgrade - Contract with GHD has been terminated, final invoice and progress materials have been received. New contract with EDR has been signed with no cost difference for the project.
- PFAS litigation - Settlement has been reached with Dupont and 3M. Final settlement calculations will be made. It will likely be made in monthly installments. be 2025 before payments start.
- Staff Training - 2023 is a recertification year, so many Associations are offering classes. All operators have met their TCH requirements and have submitted their recertification applications.
- The Board unanimously approved a request from the Superintendent to carry over his unused vacation time beyond his 11/9/2023 anniversary date (36 years of service).
- The Water Department office will be closed on Friday, 11/24/23. All staff is on-call. Any hours worked are at regular time.

Old Business:

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

Enabling Legislation: The Board continues to pursue a change to the District Enabling Legislation to subsidize improvements that will protect the source of the drinking water supply. Representative Diggs has asked the board to demonstrate that this change is the "will of the people" but was concerned with the low number of votes received for the proposed change which would support the Historical Society (non-binding referendum proposed at the May 2023 Annual District Meeting). The commissioners discussed putting this issue on the warrant for the Special District Meeting to be held regarding the School Property, the Annual District Meeting, and possibly the Presidential Ballot next November to increase the response and meet Rep. Diggs requirements. Chairman Horsley will follow up with Rep. Diggs and Commissioner Churbuck will contact the Town Clerk.

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.

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. It was discussed and voted unanimously that future irrigation leaks could be denied or granted using an alternate calculation at the discretion of the commissioners.

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.

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, December 20th at 5:45 pm at via Zoom only.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Horsley, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners