



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District Water Department

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

11/20/2024

The Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 5:45 p.m. at Freedom Hall. Present at the meeting were Chairman David Churbuck, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and was opened to public comment. There were no comments at this time.

Russ Kleekamp, representing the engineering firm EDR, presented a request for approval of a change order for the Lewis Pond Road project. He explained that after the project went out to bid, the Town revised its requirements, increasing the surface area to be repaved upon completion. This adjustment resulted in a change order amount of \$8,912.50.

To help offset this additional expense, EDR has agreed to waive approximately \$2,000 of their remaining fee and to provide design services for the next two water main projects at no cost. Superintendent Wiseman noted that the project would exceed the appropriated budget by approximately \$6,000. He assured the Board that this overage could likely be absorbed within the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget, with the expense deferred until the end of the fiscal year. However, if sufficient funds are unavailable at that time, the district may need to request additional funding at the Annual District Meeting (ADM). The Board voted unanimously to approve the change order.

Superintendent Wiseman reported on October water testing results. Total Coliform tests showed no detections. Sodium levels have risen significantly since May, and PFOS/PFOA testing detected levels over 2 at Well 5 for the first time, though still below the EPA limit of 4. Iron and manganese levels are also elevated. Commissioner Horsley requested PFOS/PFOA sampling at all wells, not just the required ones, during future testing. He also directed Superintendent Wiseman to contact Tom Cambareri of Sole Source Consulting for resampling. If unavailable, alternative arrangements should be made promptly.

The superintendent gave his report:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>+/-</u>
October	10,654,000	14,204,000	
+3,550,000			

The superintendent and commissioners feel that this increase is clearly a result of the drought conditions and the great weather conditions that we have been experiencing this fall.

New Service = 2; Replacement Services = 0; Leaks = 1

PFOS Class Action Suit = No new update. Still in a waiting period.

MRWA & NEWWA - most associations are hosting their Christmas meetings. Superintendent Wiseman will forward the most recent newsletters from the drought taskforce.

Generator Maintenance - Mice built a large nest in the generator at Station #1, causing significant damage, including chewed wires and a destroyed motor. RA Mitchell is attempting motor repairs, but full generator replacement may be necessary. Quotes are pending for repairs and monthly pest control measures to prevent future issues.

Superintendent Wiseman advised the board that he would be out on medical leave beginning Friday, November 29th for at least a one-month period. In his absence, the board voted to give Office Manager Nash the authority to approve bills - with their oversight - for payment in the warrant. Sr. Operators Dwyer and Gallagher will both be covering the remaining Superintendent responsibilities on a two-week rotation. Both will attend the December board meeting.

Commissioner Horsley, Chairman of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) ad hoc committee gave an update from their most recent meeting. He explained that when the plan was approved, the Town needed to provide a 5-year update to MassDEP on the project. The CWMP is about 3.5 years into the project and the ad hoc team will be working on the update and the issues that have arisen. One of the challenges that they have encountered is that the current treatment plant can handle about 1.5 M gallons of discharge per day, but the demand for the build-out of the proposed sewer will require treatment and discharge of nearly 3 MGD. The current site is limited due to groundwater mounding. They are looking for options for this, which includes treating the wastewater with reverse osmosis and recycling the treated water directly back into the drinking water supply. Both their current method and their proposed method treat the water to drinking water quality meeting MassDEP standards, with reverse osmosis treating it to a higher quality than the current process. However, the public perception of direct treatment and re-use as drinking water may be hard to sell. As the sewer system build out has multiple phases and stages, Cotuit is likely decades away from being connected. The town may reconsider prioritizing the sewer connections in the Zone II areas of contribution. Cotuit may also want to consider its own treatment system/reverse osmosis discharge. More information is to come on this topic and Commissioner Horsley will keep the board apprised.

There is no update on the Conservation Restriction for the Cotuit Elementary School property. The BOWC wants to review this before it is filed. Chairman Churbuck will contact the town again.

Chairman Churbuck noted that last Friday, November 15, 2024, was the last day to submit comments on House Bill #5089. He submitted a letter in support on behalf of the Board. The bill has not had its first reading yet, and Chairman Churbuck will stay in contact with Rep. Digg's legislative aid for updates on the progress. The commissioners are hopeful but hesitant that we will see it before the Annual District Meeting.

Sodium Workshop - The commissioners agreed that this was an informational and important discussion, and although the issue is regional in nature, they agreed that their focus should remain on the Town of Barnstable where they can have the most impact. Commissioner Robinson will continue to work with this information over the winter and draft a plan to address the issue with Town Council.

There was no new business to discuss. There were no matters not anticipated by the chair and no additional public comment.

The minutes for the October 16th regular meeting and the October 23rd sodium workshop were reviewed and approved.

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, December 19th at 5:45pm, to be held at Freedom Hall.

A roll call vote was taken to close the regular meeting and open in executive session per open meeting regulation, reason #1: To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:00pm. and not reopen the regular meeting in open session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Churbuck", written in a cursive style.

David Churbuck, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners