



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District Water Department

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

06/16/2021

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held via a public Zoom Video at 5:45 p.m. Chairman Scott Horsley, Commissioner Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jennifer Nash were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and was opened to public comment.

Carol Zais announced that the Civic Association Board would be rotating members to attend the district meetings in order to keep the Civic Association up to date on changes in the district. She also noted that she hopes that the meetings will move forward with a hybrid format (both in person and via zoom from Freedom Hall). Lastly, she expressed her hope that the commissioners would implement the proposed irrigation policy encouraging conservation and imposing stronger rates and private well conversions for irrigation purposes.

Cindy Gardner expressed her appreciation for holding public comment at the beginning and end of each meeting, and for rotating the chair position on an annual basis.

A moment of silence was held to honor the passing of former commissioner, Donald Campbell who served the district as a Water Commissioner from 2013-2019.

The commissioners voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the March, April, and May 2021 meetings.

The Superintendent gave the water quality report noting that there were no total coliform detections, and all Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) results were clear. Nitrate results were slightly elevated over last year (2.3 average vs. 2.0 average). The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Nitrate is 10.0 and the Cape Cod Commission recommends results below 5.0. We are currently below each of these levels but will continue to monitor and retest again in the fall.

The Superintendent report was given for the prior month.

Monthly Pumpage Results is as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>+/-</u>
May	20,958,000	16,441,000	+4,517,000

Stats:

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

Project Updates:

- Intern - Position Description needs to be finalized and posted. The Superintendent and Chairman Horsley will work together to complete this and the board voted for them to move forward with posting and hiring this position. Both have contacts with Upper Cape Tech Advisor Board and Tufts respectively and will hopefully find a candidate via these organizations. The position was approved at the Annual District Meeting for 400 hours beginning July 1st at \$15/hr.
- The Cape continues to be in Level I Drought conditions and all 5 stations are running every morning from 3:30am to 6:30am, well levels are low. The board voted to issue voluntary water restrictions for conservation purposes, effective immediately.
- Superintendent Wiseman asked the board to continue their consideration of the health insurance stipend voted in by the district at the Annual District Meeting.

The commissioners discussed the proposed irrigation policy and voted unanimously to extend the moratorium one more month to July 23rd. They again discussed the possibility of using separate meters with higher irrigation rates, implementing stronger rates on the regular usage tiers to encourage conservation for non-essential/irrigation usage without penalizing domestic/household usage. The suggested rate increases would be used to offset the annual expense of running a treatment plant (estimated to be \$500k annually). It would also provide an opportunity for a waiver or variance should a large family or food service organization encounter a hardship based on high usage for essential water usage (non-irrigation). Commissioner Hoppensteadt would support a ban on new systems connecting to the public water supply if there was a mean in place to provide an exception under certain conditions. These would require a separate meter and higher irrigation rate. They also discussed the intern position description which would provide for targeted outreach to the highest users (roughly 21% of the district users). The discussion was opened to public comment; Ms. Gardner asked how the district could direct the additional revenue from increased irrigation rates to be used to offset water department expenses. Commissioner Hoppensteadt thought that excess funds could be rolled into a WD stabilization fund established for this purpose but follow up with the treasurer is required.

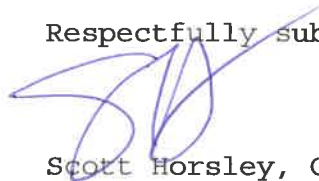
Commissioner Horsley then re-introduced the topic of PFOA/PFOS and other emerging contaminants which will require the need for future testing and possible treatment. Superintendent Wiseman noted that the next required testing is scheduled for October of 2021. Both Superintendent Wiseman and Commissioner Horsley have had conversations with Bruce Young from Mass Rural Water Association, and they will be working with us to create an updated Source Water Protection Plan. MWRA has a grant for this purpose and there will be no cost to the district.

Mrs. Nash noted that the first round of lien letters were issued on May 25th. The commissioners reviewed the list of accounts with balances more than 365 days past due. The next round of letters will be issued in July and the warrant will be signed and sent to the town after the August BOWC meeting.

Under matters not anticipated by the chair, the board reviewed a request for relief for a leak that occurred in January of 2020. The homeowner had been traveling and was not able to hear the leak that was found during meter reading and repaired by the Water Department Field Operators. The board voted unanimously to provide the requested relief.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners will take place on Wednesday, July 21st at 5:30 pm. This meeting will take place at Freedom Hall but also be presented via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Horsley', is written over the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

Scott Horsley, Chairman