



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District
Water Department

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

01/18/2023

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and was opened to public comment. There were none.

The minutes of the November 22nd meeting were reviewed and approved.

Water Quality Report:

- No Total Coliform hits in November or December.

The Superintendent report was given for the prior two months.

Monthly Pumpage Results are as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>+/-</u>
November	9,060,000	6,941,000	-2,119,000
December	8,451,000	6,962,000	-1,489,000

Stats:

Rainfall was a factor in the reduced pumpage, especially in November as it was a warmer month than normal.

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

Project Updates:

- Dirty water complaints from two Route 28 homes over the weekend - one has experienced this issue several times. There are indications that it is coming from the sediment in the Santuit Tank being stirred up by high winds over the weekend. Chris has contacted our vendor for a quote to have the tank drained and interior scrubbed to help resolve this issue. It was last cleaned 3 years ago (typically done every 5 years). He will get 3 competitive bids for this project.
- Anticipating service truck delivery in February.

Tom Cambareri of Sole Source Consulting, LLC. presented the findings of the Test Well Evaluation project. Forty-three existing sites were identified, nineteen were verified as accessible and fifteen of those nineteen are viable

for water table maps. The ability to use these existing sites will save the district approximately \$67,000. He then identified additional data points and sites for other test wells that will help to monitor the quality of water as it flows through the Little River Estates neighborhood and travels to the wellfield. The board voted unanimously to begin phase two of this project which will include surveying and installing additional test wells. Tom Cambareri will work with Darcy at The Conservation Commission for permitting of the drive points as they are along Little River which is town-owned land. The information gained from this water table/flow mapping will help the district target homes in the Little River Estates development for Septic System upgrades/replacement to protect the water quality of the district. The funds for this project are budgeted in the special appropriation approved at the May 2022 Annual District Meeting.

Commissioner Robinson brought forward his proposal to move forward with the Affordable Access to Drinking Water policy which will provide 20,000 gallons of water per household, per year at no cost to the homeowner. He will contact Fran Parks, Chair of the PruComm, to present this proposal at their meeting on Monday, January 23rd and gather their input. Following this meeting the BOWC will plan some public outreach meetings to present this to the district for feedback from the public. Feedback from these meetings will be considered by the board before voting to implement this rate change.

The BOWC will conduct an annual performance evaluation for the Superintendent at the February meeting. They have asked the Superintendent to complete a self-evaluation for discussion at the meeting. The board will also do some research on the COLA rate adjustment in preparation for payroll and budget discussions at the February meeting.

The BOWC reviewed the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that was created in 2022. They recommended moving the \$50k budgeted for well cleaning to FY25 as none of the wells were recommended for cleaning at the inspection this year. Superintendent Wiseman will evaluate the electrical upgrades and make a decision on how to budget for this project. The BOWC would like to update the innovative septic solution budget to cover an escalating number of systems per year over the next 5+ years; \$120k in the first year, increasing by one system (\$30k) each year until the project is complete.

Mrs. Nash gave an update on the conversion to Muni-Link, which is the new billing software. The initial data transfer has been completed, and testing of the data has begun. We are targeting a mid-February go-live date.

The meeting was opened again to public comment, there was none.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, at 5:45 pm via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Hoppensteadt, Chairman