



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District
Water Department

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

04/17/2024

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. Hector Gunther and Peter Hanson from the steering committee of "Save Dowses Beach" addressed their board with their concerns of the impact that the proposed substation wind farm project will have on the sole source aquifer and asked the board to send a statement of support to EPA asking them to conduct a mandatory review of the project. The substations will store dielectric fluids at the proposed locations in Hyannis and West Barnstable. The commissioners asked if NEPA had been involved and what the impact was specifically for Cotuit as these locations would not affect Cotuit's flow, other than if the interconnection was in use. They agreed to take the information from the steering committee and review it.

The minutes of the March 20, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the recent water quality testing results for total coliform. There were no detections. Volatile Organic Compound testing results were received and reviewed; all were below the minimum contamination levels. Sodium samples were taken, and partial results were received and reviewed. Sodium is an unregulated contaminant, but the EPA suggested contamination level is 20. All our stations are in that approximate range (average raw sample = 21.4, average treated sample = 20.5). Commissioner Horsley asked for a review of iron and manganese for the past 5-7 years.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>+/-</u>
March	6,984,000 gal.	6,781,000 gal.	-203,000 gal.

New Service = 0, Replacement/Relocation Services = 0, Leaks/Repairs = 0
March of 2023 had 3.78" on rain, compared to 4.99" in March of 2024.

Project Updates:

- Lewis Pond Road Water Main Upgrade - Bid was opened on 4/11/24 at 2pm at the WD office. The apparent lowest bidder was GFM for \$184,500. A recommendation of award letter and full canvas of bids was submitted by EDR (the engineering firm for the project). The board voted to give Superintendent Wiseman the authority to sign the contract with GFM to move the project forward as soon as possible, with the intent on finishing before the summer season.
- Association News - The new field operator, Jon Brooks will be starting his D1 & T1 training through MWWA beginning in late May.

- PFAS testing of the new test wells will be done by the end of April. The district needs to borrow a pump to complete the testing.
- The property discussed at the last meeting with the water theft paid the bill that included the meter repair and penalty and did not contact the water department. The account has been added to the monthly reading list.
- PFAS class action litigation - a settlement has been reached with 2 companies; one complainant had submitted an appeal that has since been withdrawn. The district could see proceeds of the settlement sometime in the next 60 days. A third company that produced the fire fighting foam has reached an agreement and the attorneys will proceed with a settlement.

New Business:

- Article for Conservation Restriction - (Commissioner Robinson recused himself from this discussion due to a business relationship with BLT) The offer to purchase 4609 Falmouth Road from the Barnstable Land Trust (BLT) has been accepted. Janet Milkman of BLT presented the proposed article for the district to purchase a conservation restriction in perpetuity for the property as it is mapped as a Zone II Wellhead Protection area for the main wellfield for wells #1, #2 and #4. Commissioner Churbuck asked if we or the BLT have taken advantage of the State Reimbursement Grant available for wellhead protection efforts. Ms. Milkman noted that the application period for the grant may have passed and may not coordinate with the timing of the closing/needed funds for the property but that they were be willing to work with us on the grant application. Commissioner Churbuck read the article into the record; Commissioner Horsley and Commissioner Churbuck voted unanimously to support this article. Commissioner Horsley will submit it to the Prudential Committee at the meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 6pm. Commissioner Robinson rejoined the meeting.
- Commissioner Churbuck attended a Town Council Workshop regarding PFAS and distributed a summary of the meeting discussion. Commissioner Churbuck's summary will be posted on the district website. The EPA recently made a change in their regulation lowering the limits for these compounds and 90 Public Water Supplies (PWS) are now in violation and will need to implement treatment within a 5-year period. COMM is the newest member of the list. Cotuit is NOT in violation currently. The district has detected these compounds at two of our stations, and as there is no history of the use of Fire Fighting Foam in Cotuit, the likely source is household use. The district has been discussing and monitoring PFAS for several years and is working on a public education campaign to inform residents on the effects of the compounds and the common household product that contain the compounds. Commissioner Churbuck recommended EWG.org as a source for this information. Commissioner Horsley would like to sample the I/A systems installed in the Shubael Pond area to test both influent and effluent to see if they are successful in filtering out PFAS compounds.
- By-Law Committee Update - Commissioner Churbuck noted that there will be no proposed changes to the bylaws at the upcoming Annual District Meeting (ADM).

Old Business:

- Viktor Tuleika, 60 Eaton Court Adjustment Request - The meter was sent out for testing as requested (\$65 testing fee). The results were that the meter was registering accurately at varying volumes of usage. The standard leak adjustment calculation was applied, and Commissioner Robinson moved to authorize relief in the amount of \$9,603.56 bringing Mr. Tuleika's bill down to \$3,429.44. This is a one-time adjustment and Mr. Tuleika will not be eligible for any adjustment due to a leak in the future. Commissioner Horsley suggested an

additional adjustment, but the Commissioners voted unanimously to be consistent and provide relief as calculated per the policy.

- Affordable Access to Drinking Water Proposal - The proposal has been posted as a link on the website and has been discussed multiple times at multiple public meetings. The policy as presented at the original Civic Association meeting was amended to reflect the comments of the gathered community, was written with the intent of providing clean water at an affordable rate to the residents of the district in a revenue neutral way and was applied equally to all water rate payers. The board has agreed within the policy to review the rates again in FY27 and the policy as currently written will be effective beginning July 1, 2024 (FY25). It will also incorporate a change in the billing frequency to go back to billing semi-annually, both bills will be for the minimum use rate (\$20), stabilization fee (\$10) and the tiered rate for all usage over the first 10,000 gallons of water used in a six-month period. Commissioner Robinson moved that the board approve the proposed rate change. It was voted unanimously.
- Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) / Enabling Legislation: The board will present a request for a warrant article for the ADM at the PruComm meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024. The proposed article was read into the record. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to accept the language as written, Commissioner Churbuck seconded it, and it was voted unanimously.
- CyberSecurity - Commissioner Robinson reached out to Mark Nelson of the Horsley Whitten group about making a presentation to the board on this topic. He will work with the Chair on scheduling this presentation.
- Revised Budget and Warrant Article presentation - Commissioner Horsley, Office Manager Nash and Superintendent Wiseman will attend the PruComm meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024 to present the revised budget (removing the one-time purchase of computer and IT equipment from the Operating Budget, and making it its own article) as well as the two addition articles discussed above.


Notice was given regarding several upcoming district meetings that the Board will need to attend:

- PruComm Meeting - Monday, April 22, 2024, 6pm @ Freedom Hall
- Special District Meeting - Saturday, May 4, 2024, 1pm @ Cotuit Federated Church Community Hall
- Budget & Candidates Night - May 21, 2024, 7pm @ Freedom Hall
- Annual District Meeting - May 29, 2024 @ Freedom Hall

The meeting was again opened to public comment, a question was asked regarding the manufacturer of the Nitro systems and if they would have any data on the compounds that are filtered out.

Due to the upcoming meeting schedule, the next regular meeting of the BOWC was scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 5:45 pm at Freedom Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Horsley, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners