



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451

COTUIT, MASS. 02635

09/24/2025

The Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 24, 2025, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom. Present at the meeting were Chairman Mark Robinson, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Commissioner David Churbuck, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and opened to public comment. The commissioners heard a requestion from Paul Fitzgerald, representing the Cotuit Meadows Homeowners Association for relief from a leak that they experienced in the last billing period. After review, the board voted unanimously to grant the relief. Office Manager Nash will confer with the treasurer regarding a refund for the payment made in good faith.

Next the board discussed a hydrogeological study at Station #5, like the one that was done on the main well field. Tom Cambareri was present for the discussion and will come back to the next meeting with a proposal and quote for the project. They also discussed some updates to our district maps. Mr. Wiseman will investigate this.

Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the water quality results for the prior two-month period. There were no total coliform detections. Several additional tests were completed, and all results meet federal and state regulations. Since sodium results have been consistent and at or below suggested levels, the commissioners agreed that sampling can resume on its regular schedule instead of quarterly. The discussed sampling PFOS more frequently, and after some discussion with input from Mr. Cambareri, it was concluded that we are already sampling more frequently than required and our current schedule is sufficient. The next test will take place in October of 2025. For reference, the EPA Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) of 4 and the State MCL of 20 will be added to the PFOS monitoring report.

Lead and Copper testing was completed this summer, and all results were below the MCL's. The next round of sampling will take place in 2028. Samples were taken for Trihalomethane (THM) and Haloacidic Acids (HAA5) which are a by-product of chlorination. Any detections were very low and within the recommended limits. Tests for Perchlorate, Secondaries (such as Iron and Manganese) and Inorganic Compounds were performed, and all results met federal and state requirements. These results and more will be found in the 2025 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) which will be published and distributed in early 2026.

The superintendent gave his report:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>+/-</u>
July	28,292,000	30,315,000	+2,023,000
August	26,146,000	31,197,000	+5,051,000

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

Association Updates - The associations continue to offer classes for Training Credit Hours (TCH's) as this is a membership renewal year and credits are required for renewal.

Mr. Wiseman received a request from our 414 Main Street Ground Lease Holders (SWI Funds Tower Holdings, Inc.) to extend the lease agreement. Currently there is 23 years remaining on the ground lease, and SWI feels that a longer lease agreement makes them (and us) more attractive to other carriers. Our current ground lease represents \$50,000 in annual revenue with a 3% escalation annually. The district would receive additional rent for each additional carrier on the tower. The board agreed that the request and supporting documentation should be sent to the attorney that we have been working with since the inception of the lease agreement for review (Attorney Rick Mann). Mr. Wiseman will report back at the next meeting as to the outcome of the discussions.

The district has received a second scheduled payment from 3M for the PFOS class action suit settlement in the amount of \$117,243.66. The total received to date is \$163, 725.18. Mr. Wiseman will follow up with the treasurer to ensure that a separate fund is being set up for the receipt of this money to be used towards future water treatment needs.

Our newest field operator, Keegan Duval has passed his D1 license requirements and will be scheduling his T1 exam shortly.

Superintendent Wiseman and Commissioner Churbuck attended the PruComm meeting on Monday, September 29th to discuss the sick time accrual policy and retirement benefit that is in place for the water department personnel. The PruComm had a concern as the auditors brought forward that there was an unfunded liability of more than \$300,000 for the district. The current policy as written in the Employee Handbook includes a provision that any employee who is fully vested in the retirement system and retires from the district will receive payment for the value of 25% for an unlimited amount of accrued sick time. The more accurate amount of liability is \$71,000 for 25% of the sick time accrual on the books as of 6/30/25, rather than the \$300,000 total of all Paid Time Off that had been accrued as of 6/30/25 by the water department employees. The liability would also have to be funded for any administrative or fire personnel with the same or similar policies. Mr. Wiseman provided documentation to the Prudential Committee supporting the policy's creation and acceptance dating back to January 1995, with discussions

on the topic by several boards leading back to 1984. Commissioner Churbuck will draft a memo to the Prudential Committee and send it to the BOWC members for review prior to submitting it to PruComm.

This concludes the Superintendent's report.

The board briefly discussed the "Old Business" topics:

Source Water Protection - no new updates.
CSCA Public Meeting on Wastewater Management Recap - Great meeting, well attended. Commissioner Churbuck sent thank you notes on behalf of the board to all of the panel members. No other action items at this time.

Cotuit Elementary Conservation Restriction - No new updates.

Enabling Legislation - Commissioner Churbuck noted that the petition has passed the House and is now on its 3rd reading in the Senate.

The list of accountholders with balances more than 365 days past due has been reviewed and signed by the board. The balances will be reported to the Town Assessors office where liens will be placed and collected with the tax bills and remitted back to the district when collected.

A request for relief was submitted and reviewed. After discussion regarding the nature and repair of the leak, the board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Chairman Robinson asked Superintendent Wiseman to review the inventory of pipe/water mains in the ground so that the board can do some infrastructure evaluation and planning should anything need to be replaced. He will compile a list of questions for the Superintendent to research.

The minutes for the July 30th regular meeting were reviewed and approved.

There was no additional public comment.

The date for the next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 15th, 5:45pm at Freedom Hall. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Robinson".

Mark Robinson, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners