



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

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

06/18/2024

The Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2024, at 5:45 p.m. at Freedom Hall. Present at the meeting were Chairman, Scott Horsley, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Commissioner David Churbuck, 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. Mark S. from the Civic Association gave thanks and kudos to the commissioners and water department staff for their efforts at the Annual District Meeting.

Nominations were made and votes were taken for the Chairman and committee positions. David Churbuck was elected as Chairman for the next fiscal year; Mark Robinson will serve on the Bylaw Committee and Scott Horsley will serve on the Policy Advisory Committee.

Water Quality reports were reviewed. There were no total coliform detections for the months of April and May; PFOS results were reviewed, all were below detection levels, the next samples will be taken next quarter. The latest sodium results were from March and were reviewed.

The superintendent gave his report:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>+/-</u>
April	10,034,000	7,834,000	-2,200,000
May	20,497,000	11,880,000	-8,617,000

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

Many classes are being offered free through MassDEP and through MRWA.

The Lewis Pond Road project = The project is almost complete. All residents have been transferred to the new water main, reconstruction and paving will begin on Thursday 6/20/24.

PFOS Samples = Results for the samples taken from the test wells have been submitted in the report from Tom Cambareri.

Improper Service Connections = Three services in the district have been found to be bypassing the water meter. All three have been fined and proper service connections have been restored.

PFOS Class Action Suit = Dupont & 3M have settled and documents for distribution have been prepared. The board voted unanimously to authorize Superintendent Wiseman to sign the settlement letters.

W2/Payroll Issues = Resolution is still outstanding and affects anyone who contributes to Barnstable County Retirement. The treasurer had instructed

PayChex to issue amended W2's, but then rescinded that notification as he has contacted a tax attorney to discuss the issue. He does not expect to have a response from the attorney until Mid-July.

Staffing = The Field Operator who started in February had to move off-island abruptly, and as such is not able to respond to emergencies in the district within 30 minutes. He has given his notice and has terminated employment with the district. The department has advertised a new position. Eight resumes were received, with maybe two that are viable. We have decided to keep the posting up to hopefully receive additional applications for a suitable candidate. It is noted that COMM Water Department is also looking for a water operator. We have discussed pay scales with the COMM Water Superintendent to make sure we are comparable.

Annual Service Connection Bid = The annual bid opening was held on Tuesday, June 11th. Bortolotti Construction (the current contract holder) was the lowest apparent bidder. The Board voted unanimously to award the contract to Bortolotti Construction. Chairman Horsley signed the award letter, and it will be sent to Bortolotti for countersignature.

Mark Nelson of the Horsley Whitten Group gave a presentation about the risks associated with Cybersecurity and some measures that can be taken to tighten controls and defenses. He also reviewed some of the steps that can be taken within the Emergency Response Plan if an attack should occur.

Chairman Horsley reviewed a draft brochure prepared by some of his students at Tufts University. The Board provided input on the draft, and it will require some additional work before it can be sent out for public education.

Following up on the actions voted and approved at the Annual District Meeting, the board reviewed a letter to Rep. Diggs asking him to move forward with the Enabling Legislation change. Chairman Horsley would like to take samples from the influent and affluent test sites for the septic systems at Shubael's Pond to confirm that PFAS contamination is indeed coming from household use, and to see if the I/A systems are filtering out PFAS contaminants. More discussion is needed before moving forward with this project.

Superintendent Wiseman will be meeting with Kelly Grant of the Barnstable Land Trust on Tuesday, 6/25 regarding the conservation restriction for the land at 4609 Falmouth Road.

Commission Churbuck would like to do some historical review on the contamination levels for the district as it regards to the treatment plan that was submitted by Tata & Howard several years ago. He will continue to work with the staff to gather the information that he needs.

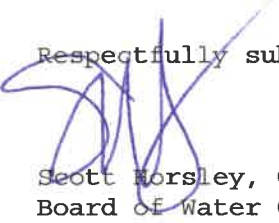
The board discussed the expenses of the department and declined a monthly review of the financials at the board meeting. Expenditure reports, distributed by the treasurer's office, are sufficient.

The lien list was reviewed. At the beginning of May, there were 37 Accounts, totaling \$25,450.15. Many of these accounts have since been collected and the new outstanding balance is \$17,879.46. The next round of letters will be sent out in July with balances due by the August meeting. Any balances still outstanding as of the August meeting will be submitted to the town for a lien to be placed for collection.

There was no additional public comment. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, July 24th at 5:45pm, to be held at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Horsley, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners