



Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

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07/24/2024

The Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 5:45 p.m. at Freedom Hall. Present at the meeting were Chairman David Churbuck, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Commissioner Scott Horsley, 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. Patty Daley, representing the Cotuit Elementary School (CES) Subcommittee presented their draft remit plan to the board for their consideration. She asked them to evaluate and provide feedback on all water quality issues or requirements that they would want considered by the consulting firm chosen through the RFP process. Considerations such as PRB's, I/A Septic Solutions, Phytoremediation, parking surfaces, wastewater treatment (and the possibility of connecting surrounding homes), heating systems and any other water quality improvements that they would propose. Commissioner Horsley has offered to draft a letter to the subcommittee prior to the August 15th deadline.

Water Quality reports were reviewed. There were no total coliform detections for the month of June. Sodium results from the May testing cycle were reviewed, on average the results are lower than prior periods but consistent with historical results. Commissioner Robinson spoke with Precinct 1 Town Councilor, Gordan Starr, who noted that Barnstable Fire District Water Department is also experiencing elevated levels of sodium. He would like to compile some historical data from each of the Water Departments in the Town of Barnstable and present the results to the Town Council to see what measures the Town could take to help mitigate the rise in sodium in the drinking water supply. Commissioner Horsley also asked Superintendent Wiseman to follow up with Mark Nelson, who presented at the last meeting, regarding the PFOA/PFOS results so that Mr. Nelson could do the "fingerprinting" analysis the he did for the Town of Barnstable.

The superintendent gave his report:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>+/-</u>
June	23,074,000	22,817,000	-257,000

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

Many classes are being offered free through MassDEP and through MRWA. MWRA is conducting their "taste test" competition in September.

The Lewis Pond Road project = The project is complete. Road repaving will happen in the fall due to requirements and regulations from the Town of Barnstable. There is a "hold back" in the GFM contract for this expense. The regular O&M budget could absorb any shortfall, if necessary.

PFOS Class Action Suit = Dupont & 3M have settled and documents for distribution have been signed. New settlements have been reached with Tyco and BASF. Settlement payments have not started yet but will be made in installments.

SWPP/Test Wells = Commissioner Horsley would like to invite Tom Cambareri to the next meeting to discuss the next steps with the new test wells.

W2/Payroll Issues = Resolution is still outstanding and affects anyone who contributes to Barnstable County Retirement. The treasurer had expected a response from his tax

professional (Andrew) by mid-July, but as of today has not had an update from him. The treasurer noted at the PruComm meeting on Monday that Andrew would have a response for him by the end of the week (7/26/24).

BLT/Conservation Restriction = Kelly Grant forwarded a WS26 Application for Conservation Restriction letter for our signature. All interests in property funded by Water Departments require approval by the DEP, this letter petitions for that approval. Superintendent Wiseman asked Commissioner Robinson to review the letter and was authorized to sign and return it.

Staffing = Currently interviewing candidates for the Jr. Field Operator position. Of the seven candidates who applied, three have not returned phone calls to schedule an interview, one is going back to school full time in the fall, and three have been scheduled for interviews this week. The two Senior Operators are carrying the workload of a third employee as well as covering all of the on-call and overtime hours. Superintendent Wiseman petitioned the Board for additional compensation for these two employees while they continue to carry this workload. The Board authorized an additional compensation of \$125/week added to the on-call pay to help compensate for this coverage.

Building Maintenance = the HVAC system at the office was repaired this spring and the HVAC company noted that the system is old and failing, and that they are not able to get parts for it anymore. They have put a temporary fix in place, but the system will need to be replaced.

Commissioner Horsley remarked that there was only one response to the PFAS article in the Cotuit Currents. The commissioners discussed continuing work on public outreach and felt that it was not necessary at this time. The district currently meets/exceeds the standards set by DEP. Resources are available if the public is interested in alternative products and filtration systems should they have a concern.

Commissioner Robinson noted that the Conservation Restriction for CES property retained by the town has not gone through the state review process and is not ready to be filed with the registry of deeds. Chairman Churbuck will follow up with David Anthony and the legal department at the Town of Barnstable for a status update.

The minutes for April 16, 2024, April 17, 2024, May 15, 2024 and June 18, 2024 were reviewed and approved.

The commissioners reviewed the proposed edits to the Annual District report and submitted any comments or corrections to the Assistant Treasurer who has been coordinating the revision.

There was no additional public comment. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, August 28th at 5:45pm, to be held at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Churbuck', written over a horizontal line.

David Churbuck, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners