



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District
Water Department

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

07/15/2020

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held via a public Zoom Video at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Mark Robinson, Commissioner Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Jennifer Nash were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and opened to public comment.

Julie Saxton of 701 Main Street asked for the Water Department's support with repairs to the road leading to Station #3 as the post office will not deliver packages or mail her house. Chairman Robinson noted that it was a private road, not maintained by the town and advised Ms. Saxton to petition the neighbors to financially support improvements to the road. Superintendent Wiseman will also talk with the Postmaster to see what improvements are necessary for home delivery to that area, as there could be factors other than the condition of the surface.

Roger Andersen of 118 Eisenhower Drive read a statement relative to the proposed irrigation policy and current moratorium on new inground automated irrigation systems connected to the public water supply. Commissioner Horsley noted that he and Mr. Andersen have spoken previously, that he has made several recommendations, including targeting the large water users first and the need for regular inspections of "smart" irrigation controllers to ensure their proper operation and encouraged his participation in future workshops or public education meetings and discussions regarding this topic.

The Superintendent report was given for the prior month.

Monthly Pumpage Results is as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>+/-</u>
May	16,441,000	16,986,000	-545,000
June	36,291,000	25,807,000	+10,573,000

Stats:

May - Replacement Services = 0; New Services = 0; Leaks = 2 and 2 Hydrant Replacements.

June - Replacement Services = 3; New Services = 0; Leaks = 0. Incredibly dry June with less than .25" rain compared to 3" in 2019.

Project Updates:

- Security System - Mostly complete with a few tweaks to be completed. Call with engineer and contractor scheduled for Thursday, 7/16 to determine the remaining items and schedule completion.
- Tank cleaning is ongoing at the West Street Tank. Mr. Wiseman will continue to work with the vendor to make sure it cleaned to an acceptable level noting that there is some permanent staining that will remain.
- The cell tower lease is being reassigned to SWI Tower Holdings, Inc. We are working with our contract attorney, Rick Mann, on the reassignment and will be holding the signed documents until the clean-up and access/security work at 414 Main Street is complete.
- American Water Works has recently passed an infrastructure act which requires us to have a Risk & Resiliency evaluation completed. Superintendent Wiseman has signed an agreement with Tata & Howard to complete this evaluation. Funding for this was taken from the FY20 O&M Budget.
- Superintendent Wiseman discussed options for obtaining a 4th vehicle for the department. Due to COVID precautions, each operator is assigned to one vehicle and the Superintendent is using his personal vehicle. The board approved Mr. Wiseman to be reimbursed for mileage and fuel his truck on the CWD account and advised that a 3-year lease of an additional vehicle may not be the best solutions. They agree that it should not be necessary for him to use his personal vehicle and authorized Mr. Wiseman to research a shorter-term alternative. Mr. Wiseman will also work with the treasurer on funding options and COVID related funding or grants for this purpose.

Commissioner Horsley proposed extending the irrigation moratorium which was issued on May 20th for a period of 90 days. The board voted on and agreed to extend the period for an additional 60 days to facilitate a workshop and public discussion at their August 26th meeting. Mr. Horsley indicated that he will contact Jim Danhauser as they are hosting a virtual civic association meeting on Tuesday, 7/21, asking him to announce the workshop at the beginning of their meeting. Superintendent Wiseman will also speak with the Superintendent in Mashpee and invite him to attend and present at the workshop as they have recently implemented a similar policy.

Chairman Robinson and Superintendent Wiseman recapped the progress with cleaning the old tank site at 414 Main Street. Two pending items are the boulders around the fence to the tower site and electricity poles and equipment that are no longer active.

Commissioner Hoppensteadt noted that there has been no additional discussion regarding the Capital Purchases and Finance policy submitted by the Policy Advisory Committee. This item will be carried forward to a future meeting after the committee has reconvened.

The list of accounts that are more than 365 days past due was reviewed and approved for future lien action. Certified letters will be sent to 18 account holders. The total amount outstanding is \$2,962.06.


The annual bid submission was reviewed and unanimously accepted. Chairman Robinson will sign the award letter and the vendor will be notified.

Chairman Robinson presented a Revenue Comparison from FY19 to FY20 noting that revenue collected is up 56% over the prior year as a result of the recent rate increase. The meets the "self-funding" objectives outlined in the cost of service and water rate study. Chairman Robinson asked that a copy of the comparison be sent to the PruComm chairwoman.

The board then elected Scott Horsley as Chair for FY21. Tom Hoppensteadt will continue to serve on the Policy Advisory Committee and Mark Robinson will take Mr. Horsley's place on the bylaw committee.

The next meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners will take place on Wednesday, August 26th at 6:30 p.m., and will be held via zoom. The agenda will be the irrigation workshop. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Robinson, Chairman