



## BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

# Cotuit Fire District

## Water Department

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

08/26/2020

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held via a public Zoom Video at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Scott Horsley, Commissioner Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Jennifer Nash were present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and began with the Irrigation Workshop noting 40 total participants during the meeting.

Presenters Scott Horsley and Jack Ahern, Landscape Architect, presented the information regarding the current water usage that exceeds the permitted amounts during the summer months, well drawdown and associated impact on nearby surface water sources and ecosystems, and the possible mobilization of manganese from nearby wetland soils. The current moratorium on new automatic irrigation systems, the potential use of on-site private wells for irrigation and alternatives for landscaping that requires less irrigation were all discussed. (PowerPoint and Video of the meeting have been posted on the district website.)

The workshop was then opened to public comment. Comments included the following points:

- Jack Thomas - Questions the fundamental premise/ basis of the policy, requested studies/documentation specific to Cotuit Fire District (state models do not necessarily apply) showing drawdown from surface water bodies. Also asked if new ground water sources have been identified and if the water withdrawal permit has been or can be increased. Understands if conservation measures are warranted but desires an assurance that the predication is correct. Urged the commissioners to review the MTBE reports specifically regarding the zones of contribution.
- Vic Mastro - Echoed Jack Thomas' concerns, would like to see a comprehensive look at the impact of encouraging private wells on several streams/ponds throughout the district and the impact to the district revenue which finds the Water Department Operational budget.
- Roger Andersen - Felt blindsided, expected Mashpee Water's superintendent to be a participant in the workshop and had several questions prepared for him. He requested data to support the premises that half of the district water usage is for irrigation. He reiterated his position that residents who have proper and responsible irrigation should not be penalized. He agrees that larger users with irresponsible or unmaintained systems should be addressed individually.

- Jaci Barton - applauds the commissioners efforts to mitigate the impact on surface water sources and encouraged them to continue in this direction, noting that the cost of building and implementing a treatment facility would be far more costly than mitigating the need for it.
- Steve Mojo - Asked for more information on Fertigation Wells and asked if there was a grant available or any incentives from the district to defer the cost of installing private wells.
- Donald Schwinn - Inquired about the current withdrawal permit. Also noted that they have been hand-watering which is difficult for an elderly couple and wants to install an automated system for a small area of their lawn. The cost of installing a private well is not a cost-effective solution for their small area.

After much discussion it was decided that the topic would be continued at the September monthly meeting.

The meeting was then opened to public comment on other topics - there was no additional public comment.

The list of accounts with a balance due that is more than 365 days past due was reviewed by the board, and the warrant will be signed and sent to the Town Tax Assessors office for collection via lien. The final list included 12 accounts for a total of \$2,015.52.

There was a request for relief from an excess use bill by a resident who experienced a leak over the winter. As this resident has requested an adjustment within the past 3 years, approval was given if the resident and their plumber can provide a statement of assurance that the proper equipment and steps are in place to properly winterize the residence so that no future leaks occur. Mrs. Nash will follow up with the homeowner and proceed as directed.

The Superintendent report was given for the prior month.

Monthly Pumpage Results is as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>+/-</u>
July	46,580,000	37,593,000	+8,987,000

Stats:

No Rain - very dry season!

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

Project Updates:

- Security System - Mostly complete. Report delivery has been automated, spare parts ordered and received.
- Santuit Tank Interior Cleaning - Scheduled for 9/16/2020.
- 414 Main Street - Superintendent Wiseman has some follow up items regarding the removal of a Fiber Optic Cable and Pad.
- Ron Tivey of the Barnstable Water Department will be joining the Cotuit staff on Wednesday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> to help with the collection of PFOA/PFOS samples as the kit has been received from MassDEP.
- The PruComm has scheduled/advertised a special district meeting for Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> with an article to fund a 4<sup>th</sup> vehicle for the water department. Options discussed included use of the Chief's vehicle, the lease of a hybrid vehicle with incentive credits for municipalities, purchasing a new truck, and seeking surplus equipment from emergency management sources via the chief. It was determined that the district would move forward with the lease proposal as the most cost-effective solution. Commissioner Hoppenstead will attend the special district meeting and discuss the warrant article, funding for which will come from the Stabilization Fund funded by the per meter fee.

Commissioner Horsley noted that the Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners had approached him to discuss what needs, if any, the Water Department would have if the district looked to acquire the former Cotuit Elementary School property. The Water Departments primary objective with that site remains to be the protection of the wellfield as it is located within Zone II and only 800 feet upgradient of the well. Commissioner Robinson noted that a meeting of the asset management team was taking place at the same time as this meeting and he had had follow up communication from members of the asset management team indicating that they did not receive/review the two prior letters that the district submitted addressing these concerns. A copy of these letters will be emailed to Mr. Robinson's contacts (Cindy Lovell and Kris Clark as well as Jessica Rapp-Grassetti. The commissioners have decided to invite David Anthony and Jessica Rapp-Grassetti along with Fran Parks and Rick Pisano to the September meeting to continue this discussion.

The next meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners will take place on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30p. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Horsley, Chairman