



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District Water Department

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

04/21/2021

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held via a public Zoom Video at 5:45 p.m. Chairman Scott Horsley, Commissioner Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jennifer Nash were present. Also in attendance is Water Resource Specialist and Hydrogeologist, Mr. Tom Cambareri, from Sole Source Consulting, LLC.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and was opened to public comment. Having none, they moved on to regular business.

The Superintendent gave the water quality report noting that there were no total coliform detections.

The Superintendent report was given for the prior month.

Monthly Pumpage Results is as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>+/-</u>
March	6,578,000	7,122,000	-544,000

Stats:

Replacement Services = 0; New Services = 2; Leaks = 0.

Project Updates:

- Flushing - the annual maintenance program is underway, JR is leading the project and Matt is doing great keeping up with the stations, turn-ons and all other work orders.
- Commissioner Robinson shared an article regarding the filtration system being used by Braintree to treat for the "forever chemicals" PFAS/PFOA.
- Areas of Massachusetts are already under Level I Mild Drought conditions and it is likely that water conservation advisories will need to be issued this year. The Superintendent will monitor this and advise accordingly.
- New Field Operator, Jonathan Medeiros, will begin on Monday, April 26th. There were 17 applicants and 5 candidates interviewed.

Chairman Horsley introduced Tom Cambareri who presented the findings from the Hydrogeologic Technical Report Groundwater Modeling Project of the Groundwater Surface Water Interaction of the Little River and the Cotuit Wellfield report. The study contains an analysis of the effects of pumping from the main wellfield with high, low and average pumping conditions on the levels of the Little River.

The report concluded that "the presence or absence of surface water in the upstream half of Little River is conditioned upon three factors: surface flow from Lovells Pond; seasonal and year to year fluctuations in the height of the water table; and extreme pumping rates of the CWD Sampson's Mill Wellfield during the summer season when irrigation demand is highest. Of the three factors, the water table fluctuations are the most significant...though summer pumping rates can exacerbate those surface water levels in the Little River. Pumping rates is also the one factor that can be modified by deliberate actions of the CWD." It also contained recommendations for additional studies and continued monitoring to help quantify the impact of pumping to the Little River. The study will be posted to the district website and is available in hardcopy form by contacting the Water Department.

There were five members of the public present for the discussion and there was a period of open Q&A with the consultant. Comments were in support of imposing irrigation restrictions and some felt the proposed policy was not strict enough. It was also noted that an abutting district also has similar irrigation restrictions.

The commissioners briefly discussed the proposed irrigation policy. A copy of the draft policy and supporting intern position will be posted to the district websites with the hope of soliciting feedback from district residents at the May BOWC meeting and notifications including links to the May meeting and documents will be publicized. The policy will also be sent to the District's Counsel for review.

Mrs. Nash recapped a request from a local journalist for public documents relating to dirty water complaints at 54 Roosevelt Road. Commissioner Robinson drafted a statement in response to the inquiry and all documents and statements will be sent to Atty. Mark Boudreau for release to the press.

The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the leak adjustment policy as presented based on the discussions at the March 2021 meeting.

The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt a hardship policy and apply as recommended to the request received earlier this year. Mrs. Nash will notify the resident, apply the adjustment, and communicate the agreed upon repayment schedule.

Commissioner Hoppensteadt presented the final draft of the Capital Improvement Plan Policy (CIP). The board supports this policy, and the Policy Advisory Team will address this with the Prudential Committee for adoption at the Annual District Meeting.

Commissioner Robinson communicated the bylaw changes recommended by the committee. Most are "housekeeping" changes, however there is a change in language to one of the Water Department bylaws. The following change will be presented at the Annual District Meeting for adoption by the district.

Section 2: The Water Commissioners shall prepare an annual budget, recommend salary rates and hourly rates of pay,

certify all bills and warrants against the District contracted by them, prepare articles for approval by District voters, prepare an annual report in writing on the Water Department's actions, expenditures, financial status, and condition of the physical plant. The Water Commissioners shall have the care, custody, management, and control of all the property, real and personal, relating to the Water Department; shall have authority to determine and establish from time to time a schedule of water rates; and make rules and regulations for the introduction and use of water. The Water Commissioners or their assistants may enter upon the premises of any water taker to examine apparatus to ascertain the use to which the water is applied or to find or stop any waste. They shall in all suitable ways exercise a careful supervision to protect the interest of the water works and the public, and shall have all the other powers, duties, and responsibilities which are given to Water Commissioners by general laws, by-laws, and those prescribed in Chapter 244 of the Acts of 1935, Sections 5A to 5H inclusive.

Article IX section 2. Sentence 11 change "or their assistants" to "the water superintendent and water department employees".

Passed Unanimously

It was noted that the Civic Association will host Budgets & Candidates night on Monday, May 17th and that the Annual District Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 26th with Candidate Voting to take place on Tuesday, May 25th.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners will take place on Wednesday, May 19th at 5:45p online via zoom. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Horsley, Chairman