



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District
Water Department

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

07/19/2021

The Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association hosted the Board of Water Commissioners for a general discussion regarding the on-going projects and initiatives of the Water Department. Chairman Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Commissioner Mark Robinson, and Superintendent Chris Wiseman were present. Office Manager, Jen Nash attended via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Hoppensteadt introduced the board and began the discussion regarding the current initiatives. During Commissioner Horsley's presentation, the board explained that during the high pumping season, the Water Department is exceeding the pumping limits as outlined in the Water Withdrawal Permit issued by MassDEP. It was noted that consumptive irrigation accounts for approximately 50% of the water usage during the summer season. The excessive pumping, especially between the hours of 4:30am and 7:30am are causing all 5 pumping stations to pump at capacity until mid-afternoon to replenish the drinking water supply. The commissioners discussed the proposed Irrigation Policy and Water Rate Increase that will be further discussed at the BOWC meeting on 7/21/21 at 5:30pm at Freedom Hall and encouraged the public's participation at this meeting. The purpose of the rate increase at the higher usage tiers would affect approximately 23% of the households in the district who consume more than 60,000 gallons in a six-month period. Revenue from the rate increase could then, at the approval of district residents at the annual district meeting, be used to offset the expense of constructing, implementing, and maintaining a treatment facility that may become necessary because of nitrogen and "forever chemical" levels created by the additional pumpage.

Questions were presented and answered regarding the voluntary water conservation restriction, private irrigation wells, the drainpipe to Lovell's Pond, the volume of chlorine used, and any contingency planning should one of the pumping stations be offline.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hoppensteadt, Chairman