



**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

**Cotuit Fire District**

**Water Department**

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451

COTUIT, MASS. 02635

11/20/2019

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall at 5:45 p.m. Chairman Mark Robinson, Commissioner Tom Hoppensteadt, Commissioner Scott Horsley and Superintendent Chris Wiseman were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and opened to public comment; there was no public comment at this time.

Chairman Robinson moved the new business to the beginning of the agenda in order to accommodate Town Councilor Jessica Rapp-Grassetti who attended the commissioner's request to have an informal discussion regarding the future use of the Cotuit Elementary School and property. Commissioner Robinson noted that the Water Department has an interest in the property as it is in our Zone II and the storage tank is 50 feet from the property line. Mrs. Rapp-Grassetti noted that the school committee was meeting that night and it was anticipated that they would be turning the property over to the town. She noted that she has discussed the property with the Town Manager, Mark Ells, and has expressed that no decisions should be made about the future use without consulting with the district leadership. She noted that there may be interest from another school wishing to lease the building but that it is in need of about \$1.3M in repairs which could be done over the course of time, and that there are some funds set aside with the town to cover a portion of the repairs. Other possible uses were discussed, such as district office space, satellite programs for the adult community center, use by the town recreation department and a possible location for a water treatment facility should one be necessary. The commissioners also discussed imposing changes to the septic system as a condition for leasing the building. Commissioner Hoppensteadt noted that the town can give land to other agencies and it should be considered as part of the district's long-term plan. Jim Danhauser was also in attendance representing the Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association and noted that he would also be attending the Policy Advisory meetings to be held by the district. The Policy Advisory committee will be tasked with working with the Prudential Committee to develop a long-term plan for the district and that the discussions should include the use of the building for all the district. Policy Advisory is set to meet on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Horsley will draft a letter to the Town Manager addressing the board's concerns. He will have it circulated for signatures and copied to Mrs. Rapp-Grassetti and Superintendent Wiseman.

Minutes from the 10/16/19 meeting were reviewed and later accepted and signed. The warrants were also reviewed and signed.

The district's water quality was reviewed, noting that we have still not been given a date by MassDEP for PFOA/PFOS testing. Superintendent Wiseman noted that he has confirmed that we are still on the list to be tested, but districts

with a higher risk assessment than ours are still the priority. The commissioners are hopeful that we will have an update and/or a testing schedule by the end of January.

The commissioners reviewed the sodium results from the raw water sample and the trend of sodium in the drinking water over the last 30 years. Levels of sodium continue to increase but do not seem to be significantly affected by the treatment of sodium hypochlorite, which has been in use since 2012 to prevent bacteria in the drinking water. They recommended some additional edits to the data presentation format and footnotes and will be preparing a document with the appropriate advisory for the district website. The advisory currently appears in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) which is produced, mailed and posted electronically on an annual basis.

Superintendent Wiseman also noted that the Iron and Manganese levels were elevated this year. Commissioner Horsley noted that this is consistent with the indicators that our pumping at Station #4 were drawing down the levels of Little River\* which could be contributing to the elevated manganese results. He maintains that implementing "fertigation" wells and a new irrigation policy could potentially mitigate the need for a treatment facility in the future. Mr. Wiseman noted that the station is due to be cleaned and he will review how this may have impacted the results in prior years.

All total coliform results in October came back "non-detect" however there was one hit in November in a raw water sample taken at Station #3. As this is the first station to be upgraded to the new SCADA system which is still in a beta testing stage it has been run very infrequently over the past month which may have contributed to the sample results. MassDEP was notified of the hit and no additional action is required at this time as the treated sample was clear.

Commissioner Robinson deferred the review of the Tata & Howard water treatment report to a future meeting.

The Superintendent report was given.

Monthly Pumpage Results is as follows:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>+/-</u>
October	14,881,000	13,868,000	+1,013,000

October Stats:

There was one new service and two replacement services, as well as one leak repair.

Following up on items from the previous meeting, Mr. Wiseman gave these updates:

*⊗ and associated wetlands*

- West Street Tank Cleaning: He noted that he was waiting on updated pricing from a local vendor and that the West Street Tank will be cleaned by the spring of 2020.
- SCADA System Upgrades: The system ran today by the levels of the tank and they will monitor it for a week before converting another station. They are still working out the bugs inherent to an initial installation with on/off times, tank levels, reporting etc.
- Retired PLC's and Radios: Mr. Wiseman researched pricing for the retired equipment and found that the total value for the 5 radios/modems would be around \$1,000 dollars. He recommended that once all the stations are converted and the new system is up and running that the retired equipment be transferred to a neighboring district which currently uses this product and has older equipment in service. The board made a motion and voted unanimously to do so.
- Sanitary Inspection (pricing) discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- Sideline and Hydrant repairs: There are 4 repairs on the schedule pending availability by Bortolotti which includes Hydrant #138 at the boat launch on Old Shore Road.
- Water Quality Complaint: There continues to be an issue with the water at 54 Roosevelt Road and the district received a letter from Atty. Beth Lynch on behalf of the homeowner requesting copies of the report from the evaluation that took place in October of 2018. Superintendent Wiseman hand delivered the report to the homeowner on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The homeowner will notify Atty. Lynch. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the commissioners as well. The commissioners advised Mr. Wiseman to respond to Ms. Lynch advising of the delivery of the report and outlining any "next steps" that will be taken, including the new directional flow process that was recently implemented to help mitigate the water quality issue and inviting her to attend a future BOWC meeting to address any additional concerns.

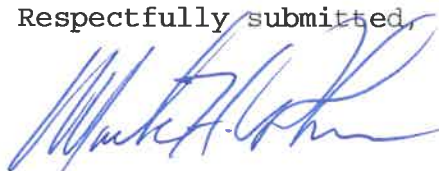
Chairman Robinson reopened public comment for those that joined the meeting after the Prudential Committee meeting adjourned. Ms. Gardner asked about the Water Department's participation in the space needs study as it was discussed at the PruComm meeting and she was requesting some clarification. The commissioners noted that they were not directly polled, although former chair Mr. Campbell may have been. Superintendent Wiseman noted that a small group from the space needs committee came and toured the Water Department facility during the assessment period and that in the past the treasurer did have a small desk and no storage at the Water Department office.

The board continued with the old business section of the agenda noting that there were no new updates on the Main Street site. Mr. Wiseman did walk the property with a representative from AmeriCorps and that any work will be postponed until the spring. Commissioner Hoppensteadt submitted his edits to the general policy document. Commissioner Horsley referred the board to his draft of the water conservation advisory policy and referenced the Town of Mashpee's policy on irrigation. A draft of the report was circulated to the commissioners for review. Chairman Robinson asked that the Water Treatment

Report and the Irrigation Policy be added to the agenda for review at the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm at Freedom Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Robinson", is written over the typed name below.

Mark Robinson, Chairman