

Martha's Vineyard is naturally acidic and all three towns treat their water with a neutralizer to produce a pH of about 7.2 that prevents the copper pipes from being corroded inside out. Saltzberg questioned if any of the treatment systems in the last year had any problems and Schwab explained they are calibrated every year. Saltzberg asked if there was any upgrades or repairs to the system in the last calendar year. Cleary stated the Sanborn well was rehabilitated this past year and Tashmoo Well was rehabbed a couple of years ago as part of our regular maintenance program. Wells are taken offline while being rehabbed. Cleary stated the system is monitored 24 hours a day.

Jernigan and Valley and Cleary will speak tomorrow for a timeline on next steps.

3) Abatements:

- 156 Hines Point: motion to waive the late fees and interest. Voted to approve 2-0
- 21 Old Oklahoma Ave tabled to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 5:45

Submitted by: <u>Rhonda DeBettencourt</u>	Rhonda DeBettencourt.
David J. Schwab <u>David J. Schwab</u>	Date: <u>8-31-2022</u>
Elmer Silva _____	Date: _____
Roland M. Miller _____	Date: _____

residential household plumbing because lead and copper issues are typically related to interior plumbing.

Valley supported Environmental Partners recommendation to have the Montessori School install a sampling tap installed immediately after the service enters the building. Valley stated she would have Cleary and herself work with Ms. Jernigan to resample with the proper chain of custody to send off to be evaluated and to see where the numbers are.

Valley stated that the June 8 sample that was taken from the Montessori School's service line at the school's direction could not be accurate. Ms. Jernigan said she spoke with Nicholas Schuller from Ma DEP drinking water program, and he also said the numbers did not make sense. She knows the pipes in the old building are old and MS needs to follow the right process to get the right answer.

Loberg stated the data are inconsistent, but we must protect the children in terms of the drinking water. Valley asked Jernigan if any of the children were tested for high lead and copper levels when this was first detected. Jernigan said she did know of some children that had gone to their pediatrician; the parents that contacted her did not give her written reports but verbally told her they were fine. Valley explained that if anyone exceeded the levels for lead poisoning, the Board of Health would have been notified.

Loberg and Valley asked if there could be any additional water testing that could be done. Cleary explained that all testing is regulated by MA DEP, and they send a required sampling schedule every three years. If there were a revision in the sampling requirements, the Water Works would receive an order from DEP.

Pratt noted that future sampling sites could include the new location in a sampling tap to be installed. Jernigan asked where the location of the new sampling tap would be. Valley suggested it be located inside the Montessori School where the water line comes into the building. If the test from the new sampling tap comes back high, then the school would want to replace the service line from the town shut off to the building, but if that test comes back clean then it is time to look inside the school piping.

Rich Saltzberg, MV Times, asked about Environmental Partners statement that there is no record of any lead pipes in the distribution system. He said conversations he had with the superintendent previously stated the records from the water department were not terrific in certain areas. Schwab said this refers to the water service lines that come from the town shutoff to the house. Saltzberg asked if there was any line in the Town of Tisbury that could have a metallic line with lead or copper components or a plastic line that is caked with lead or copper, from a previous oxidation or electrolysis of lead in copper. Schwab said there is not any electrolysis on PVC pipe. Schwab explained that we have a complete distribution map in the office that list all the mains and there are no lead lines in the distribution system. Schwab could not say whether any lead lines had been discontinued a long time ago. Schwab stated again there is no lead and copper in the distribution system and that was made clear from the Environmental Partners letter. Saltzberg asked if there was lead in a service line from someone's house business could that leach into the distribution system. Schwab answered stating it cannot leach backwards, that would not be hydraulically possible. Saltzberg asked about monitoring the system to balance the PH. Schwab explained that such treatment prevents the property owners' copper pipes in the house from leaching copper. This is the reason TWW customers no longer have green stains in the fixtures. Schwab said the water on

## MINUTES

### TISBURY WATER COMMISSION

July 26, 2022

Meeting opened by David Schwab at 4:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Commissioners Present: Roland Miller, David Schwab

Others Present: Assistant Water Superintendent, James Cleary; Administrative Assistant, Rhonda DeBettencourt; Anna Edey, Town resident; Amy Ryan, Vineyard Haven Library; Deborah Jernegan, Vineyard Montessori School. Also, Board of Health: Agent Maura Valley, Board of Health Commissioners Michael Loberg, Jeffrey Pratt, and Malcom Boyd; Valerie Soushek, Administrative Secretary; Rich Saltzberg, MV Times Reporter; Vineyard Gazette Reporter; Mac Schultzer, Resident.

TWC approved Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2022 and scheduled the next meeting for August 23, 2022. Superintendent report:

Cleary said the new supply of meters has arrived. Also, we have now gone live with Munis and the first quarter bills of FY 2023 have been mailed to the property owners. The new dump truck was delivered today.

- 1.) Anna Edey asked about her usage, and she is going to contact the office tomorrow to discuss. Also, she had a question regarding the annual Town usage for all three wells. Cleary asked her to contact him on Thursday and he would give her the information.
- 2.) At 4:30 PM, the Water Commissioners met in joint session with the Health Department to discuss the water testing results at the Montessori School (MS) which have shown elevated copper and lead levels in the old building (the new building results were "non-detect"). Board members reviewed the July 21 letter from Consulting Engineers Environmental Partners (EP). EP summarized the recent history of water testing at MS including a recent June 8 sample taken (at the request of MS) by cutting into the service line entering the old building from the Tashmoo Ave water main. EP noted that June 8 sample showed exceptionally high lead and copper levels but stated this was likely due to the metal contamination caused by cutting into the service line. This the same conclusion noted in a recent communication from the MA DEP. EP stated that the high lead and copper levels from previous samples were most likely due to plumbing materials in the old building.

Schwab noted that the Board of Health had requested a sample be taken from the hydrant on Tashmoo Avenue. That sample was taken earlier today, and we are requesting expedited handling by the testing lab.

Miller cited the lead and copper test results from Fall of 2021 with about 30 sites that were sampled. These results showed a number of non-detects and the rest with very low number of lead and copper readings. Lead and copper sampling techniques follow MA DEP protocols; the samples are taken within the customer's building and the water technicians pick them up to be sent to the lab; samples are not from the water main. In other words, these samples reflect levels from the