

At this time Dr. Donald Hornig, a member of the Water Board, gave a brief explanation as to the standard applied for testing the water and stated that no real and imminent hazard exists in the water supply. He further stated that the Water Department needs new flocculation equipment in order to remove leaves, dirt, ect., from the water at Payson. At this time City Manager Healy stated that this new equipment would cost approximately \$500,000 and a cover for Payson Park would cost approximately \$3.5 million. He further stated that like most problems, unfortunately have solutions which carry a price tag. This he said, would be reflected in a water rate increase.

He further stated that if a bond issue is adopted and new equipment purchased, future testing results would obviously be improved.

At the request of Councillor Duehay, Superintendent Cusack outlined the priorities of the Water Department which were:

1. To address the sodium problems in the water;
2. To cover Payson Park;
3. To convert the chemical treatment process; and
4. To address the salt generation residue.

Councillor Duehay requested that a complete list of these priorities with ways to address them be forwarded to the City Council in order that the City Manager and Council can develop an "action plan".

At this time at the request of Mayor Vellucci, Mr. Cusack outlined the number of reservoirs Cambridge has and the filtering process. The Mayor also voiced his concern over Payson Park not being covered and open to "bird droppings".

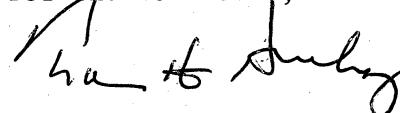
Councillor Duehay requested that the City Manager review the information flow between the engineering firm doing the testing and various municipal departments.

At this time Dr. Ilyas Bhatti of the State Department of Environmental and Quality Engineering stated that he believed this discussion was helpful and that everyone concerned must keep track of the problem. He further stated that the water quality is safe in Cambridge at this time.

At this time Councillor Duehay requested that a comprehensive plan dealing with this problem and the Water Department in general be prepared in conjunction with the Water Department, Water Board, Health Department and City Manager and submit some within four to six weeks to City Council. He further stated that we must assure the people of Cambridge that no present danger exists and inform them that Cambridge is actively monitoring the quality of its water.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

For the Committee,



Councillor Francis H. Duehay
Chairman

City of Cambridge

In City Council October 31, 1983

The Committee on Environmental conducted an emergency public hearing on Friday, October 28, 1983 at 8:00 AM in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

The Purpose of this hearing was to discuss a recent report by the Boston Globe that the water quality in Cambridge contained an excessive amount of Trihalomethanes (a member of a group of cancer causing agents.)

Councillor Duehay opened the meeting by outlining his concern over the recent report and felt as Chairman of the City Council Committee on Environment, a meeting should be called in order to get the facts of the situation out to the residents of Cambridge and to further determine if in fact Cambridge has a suitable abatement plan to combat these Trihalomethanes.

At this time City Manager Robert Healy outlined the process by which the water quality is tested, stating this process has been in place since 1979. Said process, he said, calls for quarterly testing of Cambridge water in several locations. The reason for this testing he stated, was to determine if the level of trihalomethanes was above or below 100 parts per billion. Mr. Healy further stated that the results reported in the Boston Globe were of tests done on August 23rd when the potential for high levels of chlorine and trihalomethanes is always higher. Furthermore, he stated that new tests were taken on Wednesday, October 26th and these results were considerably better with the ph level of trihalomethanes running about 83 parts per billion.

He further stated that Cambridge water is safe and that the public needs to be reassured. Finally, he stated he was currently preparing a major appropriation request for consideration by the City Council which, if adopted, would provide a much needed physical and equipment improvements in order to insure a high quality of water.

Councillor Duehay questioned whether or not the testing process should be increased from the current quarterly process as well as whether or not the testing is always done in the same place? City Manager Healy responded by stating he believed the tests should continue to be done on a quarterly basis with the exception of the summer months, when it would make more sense to conduct some additional tests. The Manager also responded to the question of the location of the tests by stating they were done in the same location for continuity and each test cost \$200 per location.

At this time Mr. John Cusick, Jr., Water Superintendent, also stated that quarterly testing should continue. Furthermore, he stated that the Water Department was constantly trying to upgrade and improve the quality of the water but without a cover over Payson Park Reservoir the chlorine level will be somewhat higher than it should.

11^{9.} #23
REPORT S-639

Committee on Environment

Re: recent report by the Boston Globe that the water quality in Cambridge contained an excessive amount of Trihalomethanes (a member of a group of cancer causing agents).

11/14/83
- Placed on File -

In City Council,

October 31, 1983

to Calendar
File
- Nov. 7, 1983 -
Motion is L
Duchay