



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

Department of Public Works- Water Division

Telephone (413) 569-6772 Fax (413) 569-5001

Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 3, 2018

Members in Attendance: Edward Johnson, Chairman
Dave Meczywor

Others Present: Randy Brown, DPW Director
Christie Myette, Office Manager

Guests: N/A
Absent: Luther Hosmer

The meeting was recorded.

Sign in attendance sheet was provided for guests.

The meeting of the Water Commissioners was called to order at 6:00pm in Conference Room 2.

Review of the March 15th, 2018 Minutes

A MOTION was made by Dave Meczywor to accept March 15th, 2018 minutes as written. This was seconded by Edward Johnson. Motion passed.

The Commitments for March & April were signed by The Commissioners.

There were no Elderly Rate Applications submitted.

DPW DIRECTORS REPORT:

1. Item #1 was about the College Highway Water Main & Pump Station project. Randy Brown will discuss this with The Commissioners under Old Business.

2. Mass DEP approved the funds as part of the Gap Grant Application for the energy efficient upgrades to the water pump stations. Unfortunately these funds were to be used with the pump station rehabilitation project which is no longer part of the project scope. Randy will be reaching out to Mass DEP to see if these funds can be used for other facilities.

3. The water bills are being finalized and will go out no later than the beginning of June.

4. The Annual Water Statistical Report was submitted to Mass DEP on 4/6.

5. Sensus provided an in-house training on the new Analytics and RNI software programs on 4/12 for Christie & Keven.

6. A service line leak at 41 Miller Road was repaired on 4/20.
7. On 5/1 there was a small water leak at Rosewood. Keven assisted Rosewood's contractor to make the repairs.
8. Emil of Sigma Water Systems started the spring round of backflow inspections. Approximately 70 tests have been completed so far.
9. DPW was approached by a realtor of the George Hankin 41 acre property that is just south of the wells asking if the Town or the Water Department would be interested in purchasing the parcel. West Springfield was also notified with a similar question. This may be an opportunity for a Drinking Water Supply Grant.

A work order summary was presented to Commissioners.

APPOINTMENT

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

FY2019 BUDGET

The Budget Report was provided to the Water Commissioners. The only concern that the Commissioners still had with the budget was the administrative expenses. Edward Johnson & Chairman to the Selectboard, Doug Moglin were planning to meet to discuss this item. To date this has not taken place.

2017 WATER RATE EVALUATION *Correction 2018*

Randy Brown mentioned the Commissioners look at the water rates to determine if we will need to raise the rates to offset the debt that will be coming on the books due to the Water Meter Upgrades and the Pump Station Project. Randy Brown provided a handout to the Water Commissioners outlining the budget, revenue, debt and the expenses. Our FY18 budget is at \$1.3 million, FY19 and FY20 are projected to be about \$1.5 million each year. In order to recoup the additional \$200,000.00 the water rate would have to increase about .83¢, bringing the water rate to \$5.58 per thousand gallons. But this would not take into account any increased revenue brought in from more accurate water meter readings. Randy Brown suggested that we do a step increase starting in the fall with .25¢ then again in a year with an additional .25¢. The Commissioners will discuss again at the next meeting and make a determination.

SOUTHWICK COUNTRY CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Randy Brown brought some plans in for the Water Commissioners to view. The plans did not show any water lines but that should be included in their next submission to the Planning Board. Randy reached out to the developer asking about the well site and if there was any way the Town could take ownership of the well. He has not heard back more than likely they are not interested. Other than owning the well site, the Town would also have to own the zone 1 area around the well which is a 400 foot radius which would cut down on the amount of buildable lots on the parcel.

COLLEGE HIGHWAY WATER MAIN & PUMP STATION

The new proposed location of the pump station is on Jarry Drive. A plan was provided to the Commissioners showing the proposed location on the Whip City Tool & Die's parcel. Whip City is amenable to the proposed location. The building would be 35' x 25' on a 50' x 75' lot. This gives us plenty of room for whatever treatment facilities are necessary to treat the raw water from Springfield. This will be an article at town meeting. There will be some plans that will need to be submitted to Planning Board and Board of Appeals.

The Springfield Water Supply Agreement item under new business was discussed as it applies to the new Pump Station. A letter was sent to the Board and the DPW stating that as of June 30, 2019 Springfield Water will not be treating water at the West Parrish Filters in Westfield meaning that the water supplied to Southwick would be untreated raw water. This water would have to be treated before it could be supplied to our customers. We expect more meetings to take place between Springfield Water, Mass DEP and Southwick before this cutoff date of June 30, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT

This was discussing in conjunction with the COLLEGE HIGHWAY WATER MAIN & PUMP STATION under old business.

TOWN MEETING

The Special & Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 15, 2018 at STGRHS. Copies of the Water Department articles were supplied to the Commissioners. Under the Special Town Meeting is the Salary line item which is a pretty standard item that is on the warrant each year. Under the Annual Town Meeting is an article for the Construction of New Pump Station. Last year we had an article for the rehab of the 2 pump stations this article voids last year's article. This year's article will cover the cost of new pump station to be built. The last article is for the Permanent Easement from Whip City Tool & Die for the new Pump Station that we discussed earlier.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 7, 2018.

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by Edward Johnson the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette
DPW Office Manager

Ed Johnson, Chairman

Luther Hosmer

David Meczywor