



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 Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Members in Attendance: Edward Johnson, Chairman
Dave Meczywor
Luther Hosmer

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

Guests: Michael Gold, 18 Bugbee Road
Gene Theroux, 20 Bugbee Road

Absent: None

The meeting was recorded.

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

Review of the February 8, 2017 Minutes:

A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the February 8, 2016 Minutes. This was seconded by Edward Johnson and motion passed unanimously.

February 2017 Commitments was signed. There were no Elderly Rate Applications.

DPW DIRECTORS REPORT:

1. Water Meter Replacement Project there are 3 contracts that are in different stages.
Contract 1-The radio tower has been installed. Testing, software installation and training will be completed in the next month. All issues with the Verizon communications has been resolved.
Contract 2- We have been ordering meters and accessories on an as needed basis from TI-Sales and EJ Prescott.
Contract 3- East National Water started installing meters in November 2016. Working in regions 1-4 out of 5 installing about 14-16 meters daily. About 30% of the installations are complete Town-wide.
2. Christie and Keven have developed the annual Statistical Report. The highlights include 62 residential gallons per capita day (RGPCD) and 8.9% Unaccounted for Water. We are waiting on Illia Olbrys to complete the Cross Connection Section before submission.

3. Mass DEP submitted the 2017-2019 Water Quality Sampling Plan. Most of the parameters remained the same; however, Mass DEP will now require an annual disinfection byproduct sampling at Town Hall plus an additional monthly raw water coliform sample at the wells.
4. Randy developed a Town-wide leak detection bid proposal which was sent to three local companies. Quotes are due March 8th.
5. The Water Department will likely start reading meters mid March, weather permitting.
6. The Water Department has turned water back on at 38 Lakeview Street. This service was shut off for lack of payment. The Housing Court judge has ordered that the water services be restored temporarily.

A work order summary was presented to Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS

North Pond Property

A map was provided to the Water Commissioners outlining the breakdown of the North Pond Property land. The map also showed the location of the proposed water easement. This also shows a location for a possible well site in the future. The total appraisal on the property was 5 million dollars. The agency that is working with the Town is looking for funding ways to fund the purchase of this land.

FY18 Budget

The budget hearing was about a week and a half ago. It was asked how much the Water Department was willing to pay towards the new backhoe. It was expressed that the Board did not want to go higher than 75 thousand dollars and they really aren't comfortable going that high. We are waiting on their determination. (This will continue to be discussed after the 6:15pm appointment concludes at 6:30pm)

APPOINTMENT

Bugbee Road Appointment 6:15pm – 6:30pm

A sign in sheet was provided for the guests.

The Water Commissioners asked the 2 residents of Bugbee Road in attendance what they expect regarding their water line.

The residents at #14, 18 & 20 Bugbee Road expected that the water issue be resolved when the road was redone last year. That would have solved their problem and they could have abandoned the water line which feeds their homes that come up from College Highway through 397 College Highway. The residents in attendance were upset because this was not written into their deeds and they had no idea until they received a card from Randy in their doors to call him that they were on a private water line.

Copies of the deeds were supplied and it was read explaining where it says that these homeowners are responsible for the water line. The Water Commissioners advised the homeowners to go to an attorney and have them read their deeds and explain to them their rights and obligations regarding the water service. At that time the homeowner can make an informed decision to maintain the water line or not.

The homeowners in attendance were questioning whether it is possible to extend the water line up from the hydrant at the corner of Bugbee and College Highway to supply their homes. This is about an 800ft run and the current 1 ½" line would need to be upgraded to at least a 6" line so that the homeowners do not have supply issues that they currently experience. The Water Commissioners said that they can look into it and make sure there will be a return on investment for the couple hundred thousand dollars it will cost.

FY18 Budget Continued

The Water Commissioners were supplied with 3 papers from UniBank on one of the Town's Banks. Which shows if we had to take a borrowing to pay off the water line replacement project what the pay off schedule will be for 20, 25 & 30 year payback period. Each shows a level debt and equal principal payments.

South View Estates Water Bill

We have not had any contact from South View since last meeting. We contacted them about 2 weeks ago and they said they would get back to us. The interest is accruing daily. This will be updated at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Date & Time Change

The Water Commissioners had a short discussion about possibly changing the date and time of the regular meetings. It was decided to meet on Thursdays at 6pm from now on. Next meeting will take place on April 6th at 6pm.

Hydrant Maintenance

The Commissioners would like to see some hydrants be repainted during the summer when we have a part time summer person.

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by Luther Hosmer the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette
DPW Office Manager

Ed Johnson, Chairman

David Meczywor

Luther Hosmer