



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, November 13, 2019

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

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

Guests: Sal Disimone, 8 Deer Run Road  
Sheri Bryant, 35 Sefton Drive

Absent: N/A

The meeting was recorded.

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

Review of the October 3, 2019 Minutes

*A MOTION was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the October 3, 2019 minutes. This was seconded by Luther Hosmer. Motion Passed.*

The commitment for September was signed by the Commissioners.

The Elderly Rate Applications submitted were approved and signed.

#### **DPW DIRECTORS REPORT:**

1. Ludlow Construction continues construction of the water main and pump station project. Most of the pipeline along College Highway has been installed and construction of the pump station is about 50% complete. Paving of College Highway is tentatively scheduled for the week of November 18<sup>th</sup>.
2. Water bills were issued and are due November 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water continues to perform backflow inspections. American Inn has one device that needs repairs and retesting.

**A work order summary was presented to Commissioners.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **WATER METER TEST RESULTS- 19 CRESCENT CIRCLE**

We have still yet to receive results from the meter tests.

### **WATER LINE – 99 LAKEVIEW STREET**

This property was up for sale and the sale that was lined up fell thru. It's still on the market and we continue to work with the homeowner on getting this line separated.

## **APPOINTMENT**

### **6:05-6:12 (6:15pm appointment) Sal Desimone- 8 Deer Run Road**

Mr. Desimone has been the owner since 1988 and turned 65 in 2017. He noticed on the bill that there is a reduced rate for seniors. He contacted the office and was told to fill out the form and if approved it would be effective on the next bill. Mr. Desimone is requesting that the elderly rate be applied to his bill that he just received. He said that he was unaware of the Elderly Rate and should not be penalized for it. The elderly rate has been in place many years and was stated on the new and old bill formats. There was also a letter that was sent in the spring which addressed the new tiered rate which referenced the elderly rate as well. The Board denied his request to have the elderly rate applied to his current bill. Randy Brown also addressed his irrigation use this past summer during the Water Use Restriction. Mr. Desimone irrigated every day in the early morning hours except on his allowed day. He said the he will keep a closer eye on it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CHANGE ORDER FOR WATER MAIN PROJECT**

We had some changes that need to be made for the pump stations. The first item was the Building Inspector requested that a different type of vent be installed on the tight tank and the second and third items have to do with the paving of the road. When we bid out the project the base bids were too high to award the alternates which were for the paving. During the course of the project the actual cost of the items included in the base bid where less which resulted in us having the money to take care of the paving of College Highway. There is no net increase to the project value.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the change order for items 1-3. This was seconded by Luther Hosmer. Motion passed.*

### **ELDERLY RATE DISCUSSION**

It was brought up by Randy Brown that the Elderly Rate may require some modifications due to the changes to the tiered rate structure. The Elderly Rate was originally designed to help those who have normal household usage who were below the minimum billing. With the change to billing at the lowest tiered rate no matter what their usage is opens up the chance for people to abuse it by using excessive amounts of water and only paying minimal for it. The Board requested that we keep an eye on it over the next cycle and see how this impacts the rates and water usage.

**APPOINTMENT**

6:24-6:41 (6:30 appointment) Sheri Bryant- 35 Sefton Drive

Sheri Bryant came into the meeting to discuss a water abatement for a leak in her irrigation system. She brought in a statement from Eric from Down Under Irrigation stating that he inspected the sprinkler system and found this split line. She has it set to go off at 7am the first 3 weeks that this leak had erupted through the ground and was spraying into the air she was unaware because she leaves for work prior to 7am. The sprinkler system was installed in 2003 before the sewers were installed. The company that installed the sewers in 2004 damaged her irrigation line and ripped out 2 sprinkler heads which had to be repaired. This leak was a 6 inch gash in the line which is flattened and she believes this was also caused by the sewer contractor but because it was not where the heads were ripped out it was never dug up to be inspected. She is asking for \$200 off water and \$200 off her sewer bill. She is asking for those amounts because she is one person and tries to be very efficient with her water usage. There was a short discussion on the matter. The Water Commissioners awarded her \$79.74 for the water portion of the bill. This was based on her average summer usage for the last 3 summer bills subtracted from the current summer bill. This works out to be 15,483 gallons at the current rate of \$5.15 per thousand. The abatement request will be sent to the Select Board who are the Sewer Commissioners to review her sewer portion of the abatement.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to award Ms. Bryant \$79.74 off of her water portion of her current bill. This was seconded by Luther Hosmer. Motion Passed.*

*Luther Hosmer made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by Dave Meczywor the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette  
DPW Office Manager

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Ed Johnson, Chairman

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David Meczywor

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Luther Hosmer