



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, January 16, 2020

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

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

Guests: Dean Cusson, 25 Berkshire Ave  
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 November 13, 2019 Minutes

*A MOTION was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the November 13, 2019 minutes. This was seconded by Luther Hosmer. Motion Passed.*

The commitments for November & December were 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 95% complete. Paving of Jarry Drive is tentatively scheduled for the spring.

2. The Water Budget sheets were prepared and ready for review and approval by the Board. We will discuss this later in the meeting.

3. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water continues to perform backflow inspections. American Inn has one device that failed which is on the irrigation system that will need to be retested in the spring.

4. This year, the Water Department is due to perform Town-wide leak testing and water tank inspections.

5. SL-Serco will provide additional training to Christie and the water operators on the new AMI water meter reading system on February 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

We sent the meter out after the first meeting with the homeowner of 19 Crescent Circle for the meter to be tested. The first test was to be completed was a flow test which measures the amount of water that the meter registers at 3 different flow rates. This meter passed that test. The second test that was to be preformed was a destructive test. Several months went by without any communication from the vendor and the meter was sent back to us without the destructive test being completed. The meter was then picked up again by the vendor who completed another flow test yielding the same result. The meter was then sent back to us again without the destructive test being preformed. This discussion was paused until after the 6:15pm appointment.

**APPOINTMENT**

**6:15pm-6:30pm appointment Dean Cusson 25 Berkshire Ave**

Mr. Cusson met with the board to discuss his high water bill which he was asking for an abatement on. His son did move back into the home during this billing cycle which would have accounted for some extra usage but this was more than was expected. Looking at the monthly readings for the property July was the month where the most of the usage occurred. Mr. Cusson mentioned that he did have a hose that was on and ruptured and a toilet flapper that was bad that could have resulted in this high usage during that time frame. The Board discussed and awarded 10% on the water portion of the bill. This will be sent to the Select Board who act as the Sewer Commissioners for their consideration.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to abate 10% off the water portion of the bill for 25 Berkshire Ave. This was seconded by Luther Hosmer and the motion passed.*

**OLD BUSINESS (continued)**

**19 CRESCENT CIRCLE – RESUMED**

The original abatement that was requested by Mr. & Mrs. Walhovd was for \$219.32 off of the water portion of the bill for the leak which they believed to be an inaccurate meter. The Board discussed the situation and the issues with the testing and came to the following determination to award \$100.00 off the water portion of the bill and suggests the same percentage be taken off the sewer portion.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to award \$100.00 off the water portion of the bill for 19 Crescent Circle. This was seconded by Luther Hosmer and the motion passed.*

**ELDERLY RATE DISCUSSION**

At the last meeting the Board discussed the new way the elderly rate is calculated under the tiered rate which is no matter what the usage amount those with the elderly rate are billed at the lowest tier. In the last few months it has been witnessed that there is the possibility for the elderly rate to be misused. It was designed for those on a limited income to keep costs down for usage that fell below the minimum billing. Some charts were given to the Board to view. At

this time the Board would like to monitor the usage thru the next summer bill and revisit this in the fall.

## NEW BUSINESS

### WYNNFIELD CIRCLE- MASTER METER CHARGE

As part of the new Water Main and Pump Station Project on College Highway a 6" Master Meter was installed at the Wynnfield Condominiums service line. The Board voted on the rental charge of the meter as this is the largest meter in our system. The cost would be determined in the same fashion as the other meters by taking the total cost of the meter and dividing it by 20 which is the life expectancy in years of the new meters, then dividing that number in half to determine the 6 month rental cost.

### FY2021 BUDGET

The Water Departments meeting with Finance Committee is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:15am to discuss the FY21 Budget. The lines that we are asking for an increase are for the advertisements, uniforms, City of Springfield for purchased water and backflow inspections. We are asking for a decrease in the surface material line item. A copy of the budget packet is attached.

### 14 LEXINGTON CIRCLE ABATEMENT APPLICATION

The homeowner Barbara Cosenzi received a leak notification in the mail regarding her property and was in contact many times with the office to identify this leak and repair it. It turns out it was an outdoor leak in a pond with a motion sense scarecrow connection. The leak was repaired within the month. She is asking for an abatement on her water portion of her bill.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to abate \$150.00 on the bill for 14 Lexington Circle. This was seconded by Luther Hosmer. Motion passed.*

### NEXT MEETING

The Board tentatively scheduled the next meeting for February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

*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

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Ed Johnson, Chairman

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Luther Hosmer

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David Meczywor