



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 December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Members in Attendance: Dave Meczywor, Acting Chairman - Remote  
John Cain, Commissioner - Remote

Absent: Edward Johnson

Others Present: Randy Brown, DPW Director - Remote  
Christie Myette, Office Manager – Town Hall Remote  
Keven Soper, Southwick Water Foreman - Remote  
Doug Moglin, Select Board Chairman - Remote

Guests: Michael Doherty, Southwick Planning Board Chairman

The meeting was recorded.

The meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was called to order at 6:02pm.

Pursuant to the Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter. 30A, Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Southwick, Board of Water Commissioners is being conducted at both Town Hall and via remote participation by some or all of its members to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for the Order. Despite our best efforts, if we are not able to provide for real-time access via the Zoom Conference Call Platform we will post a record of the meeting on the Town's website as soon as we are able.

Public Comments  
NONE

Review of the November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to accept the minutes from the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

*Roll Call Vote: Dave Meczywor- Yes John Cain- Yes MOTION PASSED*

The monthly commitment for November 2020 was approved to be signed at a later date.

Fifteen Elderly Rate Applications were presented for the Water Commissioners. Ten out of the fifteen had met all the requirements necessary to receive the elderly rate. Five were tabled until the next meeting pending more information by the applicants.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to approve the ten elderly rate applications that meet the necessary requirements. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Dave Meczywor- Yes*

*John Cain- Yes*

***MOTION PASSED***

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to table the elderly rate applications for 2 Boyce Rd, 62 Powder Mill Rd, 20 Rosewood Lane, 22 Lakeview Street and 15 Eagle Street until next meeting. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Dave Meczywor- Yes*

*John Cain- Yes*

***MOTION PASSED***

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. A total of four Lead and Copper Samples were taken in late September at Powder Mill School, Woodland School, and the Rec Center. One sample from Woodland School kitchen sink exceeded the action level for lead. Further, the Powder Mill School kitchen sample and the Rec Center kitchen faucet had detectable levels of lead. These faucets were taken out of service and have been replaced. Re-testing cannot happen until the schools reopen.
2. Water bills were issued and are due November 18<sup>th</sup>. Demands were sent out November 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 and are due December 14<sup>th</sup> 2020. The DPW office has received several dozen calls from residents with claims that the bills are too high. DPW Looked into each claim and determined that the bills were correct.
3. Water tank inspections are scheduled for later this year or early next year.
4. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections on backflow devices in Town.

A work order summary was provided to the Board.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **WATER MORATORIUM**

At the last meeting a discussion was held regarding a proposed development on Depot Street. During that discussion the chairman of the Planning Board questioned the legality of the Water Moratorium. The moratorium was reviewed by legal counsel and it was determined that it was legal. It was suggested to put a plan in place that certain goals should be met in order to discontinue the moratorium. It does not mean that the end date cannot be extended if those goals are not met. A discussion continued regarding water usage and the water restrictions, irrigation and other factors that cause this moratorium to be put in place. Michael Doherty, Chairman of the Planning Board was concerned that the moratorium would be a very large

deterrent to possible development in Town. Keven Soper, Water Foreman reminded the Commissioners that we are at capacity and we cannot put any more water into the system unless it's expanded and withdrawal limit raised. This discussion will be continued until the next meeting.

*A MOTION was made by John Cain to table the moratorium until next meeting. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Dave Meczywor- Yes*

*John Cain- Yes*

**MOTION PASSED**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FY2022 BUDGET**

Randy Brown, DPW Director asked the Commissioners about items that they would like to be included in the budget for FY2022. Items that were discussed was the pipelining from Jarry Drive to the Springfield Water Interconnection, water line extension on First Street and upgrading the water line on Bugbee Road. Randy will put some numbers together for review at the next meeting.

### **CUSTOMER PORTAL**

A discussion was had earlier regarding ways to make customers more aware of their water consumption. The customer portal has the ability to set alerts and see how much water you are using between billings. After a meeting with Sensus a quote was provided to the Water Department. The startup fee was about \$21,000.00 and an annual cost of \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00. Typically the enrollment in this program is about 8-13% with only about 40% of that would utilize it on a regular basis which is about 4%. A discussion took place and it was determined that a survey would be developed to gauge interest in this portal.

### **MASS DEP REGIONAL RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE & ACHIEVEMENT**

Mass DEP awarded the Southwick Water Department a certificate for outstanding performance and achievement.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Hudson Holdings- 55 Hudson Drive Abatement Request**

This is the second time this abatement is coming before the Board. No one was present for the meeting. A packet of information was provided to the Board. Looking at the meter data it appears that there may have been a leak in a toilet at the property.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to deny the abatement request for 55 Hudson Drive. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Dave Meczywor- Yes*

*John Cain- Yes*

**MOTION PASSED**

Aaron Rothman-113 Feeding Hills Road Abatement Request

The Board reviewed the abatement application as no one was present for this appointment. There was no more information given on the application other than they did not use that amount of water. The water usage was higher than last year from April to June but normal for July to September. The usage for the full year did not show usage out of the ordinary or out of the realm of possibility compared to the rest of the year.

A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to deny the abatement application for 113 Feeding Hills Road. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor- Yes

John Cain- Yes

MOTION PASSED

John Cain made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by Dave Meczywor the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor- Yes

John Cain- Yes

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette  
DPW Office Manager

---

Ed Johnson, Chairman

---

David Meczywor

---

John Cain