



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 March 4, 2021

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

Others Present: Randy Brown, DPW Director - Remote  
Christie Myette, Office Manager – Town Hall Remote  
Keven Soper, Water Foreman- Remote

Guests: Marcus Phelps, Southwick Planning Board Vice Chairman

The meeting was recorded.

The meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was called to order at 6:00pm.

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 January 21, 2021 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the minutes from the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. This was seconded by Edward Johnson.

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson- Yes

Dave Meczywor- Yes

John Cain- Yes

MOTION PASSED

The monthly commitment for January & February 2021 was approved to be signed at a later date.

A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to approve the January & February 2021 Commitments. This was seconded by John Cain.

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson- Yes

Dave Meczywor- Yes

John Cain- Yes

**MOTION PASSED**

One Elderly Rate Application was presented for the Water Commissioners. The applicant meets all the necessary requirements

A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to approve the elderly rate applications for Christine Shotwell of 27 South View Drive. This was seconded by John Cain.

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson- Yes

Dave Meczywor- Yes

John Cain- Yes

**MOTION PASSED**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. Mass DEP approved the Water Departments revised Coliform Sampling Plan to allow for samples to be taken from the new Jarry Drive Pump Station as opposed to the North Longyard Pump Station.
2. Christie and Keven completed the Annual Statistical Report. The significant reporting numbers are as follows: Unaccounted for Water- 7.7%; Residential Gallons Per Capita Day (RGPCD) - 90.
3. Christie completed the Annual Consumer Confidence report and this will be advertised in the Westfield News on Friday March 12, 2021. It will also be posted in multiple locations around Town.
4. Gary Liquori of 266 South Longyard Road filed a Statement under Informal Procedure thru Probate Court contesting his denied abatement request. Per the Town's legal counsel, this claim was improperly filed through Probate Court and not District Court. The Town's legal counsel relayed this error to Mr. Liquori, but Mr. Liquori has not taken any further action.
5. Notices were sent to the following largest water users regarding water use.
  - a. Commercial users that have a large split between summer and winter usage and those that did not appear to comply with the outdoor water use restrictions.
  - b. Agricultural users that have a large increase in water use during 2020.
6. There is a potential new development at 686 College Highway that would be a large water user. The applicant is in communications with several town departments but has not yet filed any plans for review.
7. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Safety continues to perform inspections of backflow devices.
8. Water Tank inspections are scheduled for this spring.
9. Sensus is planning to update the RNI software to version 4.8 shortly.
10. The Water Department will take additional Lead & Copper Samples at Woodland School and the Rec Center now that the schools have re-opened their doors.

Work Order Summary was provided to the Board.

## OLD BUSINESS

### HIGHEST WATER USERS

This was discussed in the DPW Directors Report. We sent out letter to the top commercial and agricultural users. A list was of those locations was provided to the Water Commissioners. Only one property has contact the office regarding this letter.

### FY2022 BUDGET

The Water Commissioners Budget hearing is scheduled for 10:15 on Saturday 3/6/2021. The Zoom Meeting info was forward to Chairman Ed Johnson who will be attending.

## NEW BUSINESS

### POOL ABATEMENT POLICY FOR SEWERS

Last billing a few people applied for sewer abatements for filling pools and other outdoor water use. Those were all denied but the Sewer Commissioners wanted to look into a policy for filling of pools. After research of over 30 cities and towns in the area a policy was formulated for filling of a new pool or the filling of a pool that has had a liner replaced. The application has to be filed prior to the fill with the \$25.00 fee. A copy of this application was provided to the Water Commissioners.

### DRINKING WATER STATISTICAL REPORT

This was also discussed in the DPW Directors report. The Drinking Water Statistical Report has been completed and will be submitted to MassDEP next week. The unaccounted for water percentage has improved we have hovered around 9.5% in the past few years. The RGPCD has increased higher than in years past but this was expected due to the pandemic and the drought condition we experienced last summer.

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by John Cain the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson- Yes*

*Dave Meczywor- Yes*

*John Cain- Yes*

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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John Cain