



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 April 1, 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: Doug Moglin, Select Board Chairman
Peter Currier, Westfield News

The meeting was recorded.

The meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was called to order at 6:01pm.

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 March 4, 2021 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the minutes from the March 4th meeting. This was seconded by John Cain.

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson- Yes

Dave Meczywor- Yes

John Cain- Yes

MOTION PASSED

The monthly commitment for March 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 Steven Richter of 7 Mallard Lane. This was seconded by John Cain.*

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson- Yes

Dave Meczywor- Yes

John Cain- Yes

MOTION PASSED

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. The Annual Consumer Confidence Report was finalized and advertised in the Westfield News and posted in several locations around Town.
2. Christie and Keven started the meter reading process for the winter billing cycle which ends April 1st. Bills will likely be sent out in late April or early May.
3. Christie and Randy will meet with Michelle Hill, Tax Collector, in mid-April to review the schedule for shutoffs.
4. There is a potential new development at 686 College Highway that would be large water user. The applicant is in communications with several Town departments but have not filed any plans for review.
5. Water tank inspections were completed on 3/19 by Underwater Solutions. We are awaiting a final report, but nothing significant was noted by the crew. There was a small amount of sediment on the bottom of each tank near the ladder.
6. Sensus is planning to update the RNI software to version 4.8 shortly.
7. The Water Department will tank additional Lead and Copper Samples at Woodland School and the Rec Center now that schools re-opened their doors.
8. Keven and Randy are designing and developing the application to add chlorination feed system to Well 1.
9. Water samples were taken on March 9th and analyzed for PFAS as a part of a grant program through MassDEP. The results will be discussed in further detail during New Business.
10. DPW has not received any news since the last Water Commissioner's Meeting regarding an abatement claim filed by Mr. Liquori of 266 South Longyard Road.
11. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections at backflow devices.

Work Order Summary was provided to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

PFAS TESTING

The first round testing was completed earlier this month and we received the results last Friday March 26, 2021. They tested for PFAS at the entry to Well 1 & 2. There was a small detect in Well 1 well below the MCL or Maximum Contaminant Level which is deemed the safe level by MassDEP, is 20ppt (parts per trillion). The detect at Well 1 was 4.93ppt well below the MCL. Well 2 did not have any detection of PFAS. We are not in the same situation that Westfield is experiencing with having to install special filtration systems to remove PFAS. We will be following up with confirmatory testing to verify the result. No public notification is necessary when you are below the MCL. MassDEP is requiring quarterly testing for PFAS starting in October for systems of our size. It is very difficult to determine the source of PFAS because its in so many products and so widely used. Randy was in contact with MassDEP regarding the test results and they did not have a number of systems that had small detects yet but at least 1 and 5 systems are coming back with results above the MCL. We will be posting the test results on the website as soon as possible to be as transparent as possible. These results will also be included on the 2021 Consumer Confidence Report next year.

BILL STUFFER

In the April water billing a letter will be sent out with it explaining the Water Use Restriction and encouraging water conservation as we have done in the past. We also are including a letter which will direct the water users to our website to complete a survey about the Customer Portal and if it will be something they are interested in.

LOCATIONS REQUIRING METER UPGRADES

There are a total of 15 properties that still require the meter upgrade. We have made contact with one or two of those properties but they have not contacted DPW for an appointment. Countless letter and postcards have been sent over the last 4 years to get them to upgrade their meter. We are at the point where a few meters are not reading any longer and have been receiving estimated bills. It was suggested that we send one more letter to these properties and inform them the meter must be changed out or the water will be shut off at the property until the meter is changed out. The Commissioners requested a letter be drafted to be reviewed at the next meeting. There are concerns about Governor Bakers COVID orders and we need to make sure we are keeping the Water Department Crews safe as well. We will revisit this at a future meeting.

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by John Cain the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm.*

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson- Yes

Dave Meczywor- Yes

John Cain- Yes

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette
DPW Office Manager

Ed Johnson, Chairman

David Meczywor

John Cain