



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

Southwick Town Hall- Land Use Hearing Room, 2nd Floor- IN PERSON ATTENDANCE ONLY

Thursday August 5th, 2021 at 6:00 pm

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

Others Present: Randy Brown, DPW Director
Christie Myette, Office Manager
Keven Soper, Water Foreman

Guests: Sign-in Sheet Attached

The meeting was recorded.

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

Public Comments:

John Vaillencourt- Since Carvana withdrew their application with the Planning Board. Mr. Vaillencourt was unsure as to how the Board felt about the change in daily usage from 9,000 gallons to 25,000 gallons per day. Since that property is still zoned industrial the Water Commissioners should look into a different tiered rate for businesses. During this process many residents were upset that homeowners in town have restrictions but businesses do not. So in fairness they should be charged at a different rate.

Review of the June 24, 2021 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

A MOTION was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the minutes from the June 24th meeting. This was seconded by John Cain. **MOTION PASSED**

Two Elderly Rate Applications were presented for the Water Commissioners. The applicants meet all the necessary requirements.

A MOTION was made by Dave Meczywor to approve the elderly rate applications for 48 Rosewood Lane & 180 Berkshire Ave. This was seconded by John Cain. **MOTION PASSED**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Mass DEP and Department of Conservation and Recreation(DCR) started to develop a Water Needs Forecast with is the first step to renewing the Water Withdrawl Permit.
2. Water Use Restrictions were lifted on 7/15 due to a return to normal streamflow levels in the Westfield River and the State declaring the CT River Valley Region was no longer in a drought. A summary of warning and fines for violators of the water restriction was given to the Commissioners.
3. The process to shutoff service to customers who are delinquent in paying bills or not updating their meters started on 7/19. A list of those addresses was given to the Commissioners.
4. The Water Department received a request from 357 College Highway to waive installing a new meter. Randy provided additional information regarding the type of meter and the radio transmitter. The owner is reviewing this information and will follow up shortly.
5. The applicant for a new development at 686 College Highway (Carvana care processing facility) withdrew their application on 7/20.
6. On 7/26, Mass DEP approved an application to incorporate a new chlorine feed system for Well 1. This will be similar to the Well 2 system.
7. The Planning Board received plans for a new 100 unit residential at 42 Depot Street that would be a large water user. The planning Board Special Permit hearing is scheduled to open on 8/10.
8. Sensus delayed the RNI software update until 8/30.
9. Mass DEP extended the timeframe to renew the Water Management Act Registration for 12/31/2021 to 4/7/2023. This extension is due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency which lasted 462 days. Randy previously submitted the renewal request. No further action is necessary at this time.
10. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections at backflow devices.

Work Order Summary was provided to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

LOCATIONS REQUIRING METER UPGRADES

This was addressed in the Director's Report with a summary provided to the Commissioners.

WATER MORATORIUM

This is a follow up from the last few meetings. A graph of the monthly water usage since 2016 was provided to the Commissioners. March, April and May were pretty consistent with the usage over the last few years. There was a drop in June and July due to the increased precipitation. All of this information plays into where the Board wants to go with the Water Moratorium as well as the Water Main Upgrade Project which is ongoing. The Water Moratorium was modified a few meetings ago to allow for single family connections up to 150,000 gallons per year. The Water Main Project should be completed by spring 2022. The Water Commissioners discussed the moratorium as well as the capacity at each pump station and well.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to keep the Water Moratorium in place as it stands until the Water Main Upgrade is complete. Seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED*

CUSTOMER PORTAL FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION

At the last meeting the Commissioners reviewed the responses from the Customer Portal Survey sent out in the last billing. The quote from EJ Prescott was provided to the Water Commissioners. The cost for year 1 would be about \$27,250.00 for the setup and integration. Then year 2 to year 5 would be a maintenance cost ranging from \$6,400.00 to \$7,000.00 yearly. We received about 107 responses out of about 2,600. Most would use it but many would not pay extra for it. The Commissioners discussed it and it was a great idea but at this point there is not enough interest to justify the cost at this time.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to table the Customer Portal until a later date. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED.*

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by John Cain the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.*

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette
DPW Office Manager

Ed Johnson, Chairman

David Meczywor

John Cain