



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- Auditorium- IN PERSON ATTENDANCE ONLY

Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00 pm

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

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

Absent: John Cain, Commissioner

Guest: Andrew Gale, 5 Point Grove Road

The meeting was recorded.

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

Public Comments: NONE

Review of the August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the minutes from the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. This was seconded by Edward Johnson. 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 Sherrill Costa & Robert Lake. This was seconded by Edward Johnson. 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 Withdrawal Permit. No update on this since last meeting.
2. The Planning Board received plan for a new 100 unit residential subdivision at 42 Depot Street that would be a large water user. The Planning Board Special Permit hearing opened on 8/10/2021 and is still under review.

3. Tighe & Bond submitted draft plans and specs for the water main improvements to connect to Springfield Water & Sewer Commissioner's transmission main. This is scheduled to go out to bid in October.
4. DPW repaired a water leak at a hydrant on Jered Lane on 8/11/2021.
5. Josh Winn took over as the new DPW floater. Josh will take an Intro to Drinking Water Class this fall and expects to take the D-1 exam afterwards.
6. Sensus updated the RNI Software on 8/30/2021.
7. The new billing cycle starts on 10/1/2021. The next round of bills will likely be issued in late October.
8. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections at backflow devices
9. The Planning Board is putting together a Master Plan Committee. This committee will be a 15 member board. They will have one representative from DPW and Planning Board will be asking other departments and boards to provide a designee to act as a liaison between the boards for this process. The board will speak about this more in depth under new business.

Work Order Summary was provided to the Board.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **WATER MORATORIUM**

This is a follow up from the last few meetings. A graph of the monthly water usage from 2016 to August 2021 was provided to the Commissioners. The Planning Board Chairman, Michael Doherty sent a statement to the Board via email. In this email to the Commissioners Mr. Doherty asked for the Water Commissioners to reconsider the Water Moratorium. Randy Brown has had conversations with Mr. Doherty regarding this and asked if there are any projects that he knows about that would be affected by the Water Moratorium. At that point he was not aware of any projects which would be negatively affected by the moratorium. The Commissioners discussed the issue and decided to keep the moratorium in place but be open for discussion at a meeting if a project would be negatively affected because of the moratorium.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ARPA FUNDS**

There is funding coming to the Town of approximately \$2.9 Million in the next two year from the government. These funds are going to be disbursed by the Select Board but these funds are only able to be used on certain projects. Some of the approved uses include water infrastructure. A list of projects were provided to the Commissioners to determine what projects they deem to be most important which would be submitted to the Select Board for consideration. The Commissioners discussed the projects and determined the four projects they deemed as most important to be sent to the Select Board as follows:

1. Springfield Water & Sewer Transmission Main Improvements
2. Secondary Transmission Main to Water Tanks
3. North Longyard Pump Station Improvements
4. Upgrade of Well#1

REAFFIRM WATER RATES

At the September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 Water Commissioners Meeting the Board voted on a stepped rate increase one in October 2020 and the next in October 2021. This stepped increase was needed to cover the debt that was going on the books from the Jarry Drive Pump Station Project and College Highway Water Main Upgrade.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to reaffirm the vote taken on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 for the rate increase for FY2022 effective on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Seconded by Edward Johnson. MOTION PASSED.*

MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE LIAISON

This was discussed briefly under the Directors Report and after short discussion on the matter.

*A **MOTION** was made by Edward Johnson to nominate Dave Meczywor to act as the Water Commissioners Liaison to the Masterplan Committee. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED.*

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by John Cain the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.*

*MOTION PASSED*

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