



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- IN PERSON ATTENDANCE ONLY

Thursday October 21st, 2021 at 6:00 pm

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

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

Absent: Edward Johnson, Chairman

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 September 16th, 2021 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.
These minutes were tabled until next meeting.

The Commitment was signed for September.

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

A MOTION was made by John Cain to approve the elderly rate applications. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Water bills for the 4/1 to 10/1 billing period have been mailed and are due 11/16.
2. The Water Main Improvements project to upgrade the Springfield Water & Sewer Commission's transmission main is out to bid. Bids will be opened on 12/2.
3. On 9/24, MassDEP submitted a *Renewal Order to Complete* for the Water Withdrawal Permit renewal. This starts a 90 day window for the Water Department and other State agencies to

submit clarification and additional information for MassDEP's review. Randy will be working on items requested of the Water Department. The Water Needs Forecast being developed by Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has not been developed.

4. On 10/4, the Select Board reviewed the list of projects recommended by the Water Commissioners. The Select Board will likely vote to pay for the SWSC Transmission Main Improvements project thru ARPA funds at their next meeting.

5. Water department repaired a water leak on White Street on 10/12. There was a hole the size of a pencil in the 2" copper pipe.

6. Eversource is conducting an audit of all Town-owned facilities to identify potential energy upgrades, including water pump stations. Eversource inspected all of the water facilities on 10/20 and will issue a report with recommendations shortly.

7. The owner of 266 South Longyard Road (Liquori) appealed the Water Commissioners previously denied his abatement request for the 2020 summer bill to the Appellate Tax Board. The Town filed a Motion to Dismiss which was granted by the judge on 10/14. No further action is necessary by the Town at this time.

8. The meter at 55 Sam West Road was removed from the service line and a straight section of pipe was put into its place. This was noted by Water personnel while reading water meters. The meter was missing from the property. The owner was notified of this violation and told to 1) replace the water service from the curb stop, 2) remove the pipe where the meter should be located and provide a proper setup for a new meter, 3) install a backflow device on the threaded hose bib, and 4) pay for a new meter. After these items are complete, the new meter will be installed by the Water Department.

9. The Planning Board received plans 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 and is still under review.

10. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections at backflow devices.

A short discussion took place regarding item #3 about the Water Needs Forecast and what the possibility of the renewed permit allowing for an increase in the water withdrawal limit. Randy Brown explained that the Town has completed drainage projects, land preservation and bylaw updates which will give credits to increase the withdrawal which will need to be reviewed with MASS DEP.

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 September 2021 was provided to the Commissioners. This was reviewed and September's usage was in line with historical usage.

ARPA FUNDS

This was briefly discussed in the Directors Report. The Select Board will be voting on the APRA funds at the next meeting on Monday 10/25. It looks like they will be approving at least one water

project being the Water Transmission Main Improvement project. A recap of the project amounts that the Water Commissioners recommended for ARPA Funds to the Select Board were reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

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

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette
DPW Office Manager

Ed Johnson, Chairman

David Meczywor

John Cain