



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 – Hybrid Meeting

Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:00 pm

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

#### Others Present:

Randy Brown, DPW Director  
Keven Soper, Water Foreman  
Christie Myette, DPW Office Manager  
James Laurila, SWSC  
Jaimye Bartak, SWSC  
Christina Jones, SWSC

Katherine Shea, SWSC  
Elise Tarnauskas, SWSC  
Mary Madru, 29 Wynnfield Circle  
Sandra Heap, 16 Wynnfield Circle  
Peter Currier, Press\*

\*= Remote Participation

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 February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

*A MOTION was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes. This was seconded by John Cain. MOTION PASSED*

#### Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

The Commitment was signed for February.

One Elderly Rate Application was presented to the Water Commissioners. The applicant met all the necessary requirements.

*A MOTION was made by John Cain to accept the Elderly Rate for 2 Pine Road. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED*

#### Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. Construction for the water transmission main improvements project with Morais Concrete Service started during the week of 3/14. They are starting at the Westfield Town line and moving north. Work is expected to be completed by 6/1.
2. Keven Soper transitioned back into the Water Foreman position on 2/28.
3. On 2/28, we received the 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter haloacetic acids (HAA5) samples at the Jarry Drive Pump Station which were 107.5 ppb. These samples were taken from water purchased by Springfield Water & Sewer and before it was blended with water produced by the Water Department. These results triggered a Tier 2 water quality violation. Public Notices were sent out on 3/14 to all water users. This will be discussed in more detail with Springfield Water & Sewer at this meeting.
4. On 3/5, Ed and Randy met with the Select Board and Finance Committee to review the Water Department's FY23 budget requests. Over the next 3-4 weeks, the budget will be finalized in advance of Town Meeting.
5. On 3/17, Randy attended a preliminary meeting with Ferrell Gas/Blue Rhino about a possible process facility at 686 College Highway. Ferrell Gas/Blue Rhino would be a new commercial user with a water usage around 1,000 gallons/day.
6. Christie, Keven, Keith, and Jason will be starting the process to read meters for the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 bill cycle. Bills are expected to be sent out by mid to late April.
7. Christie and Keven are working on developing the 2021 Consumer Confidence Report and the 2021 Annual Statistical Report. Both reports should be completed with the next 3-4 weeks.
8. Mass DEP and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) initiated the Water Needs Forecast which is required for the Town's Water Withdrawal Permit renewal. There has been no update from Mass DEP or DCR since late 2021.
9. The owner of 55 Sam West Road has not yet performed the remedies necessary to re-establish the water service which included 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.
10. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections at backflow devices.

Work Order Summary Provided to Commissioners.

## **APPOINTMENT**

6:15pm- Springfield Water & Sewer Commission

Presentation about Disinfection Byproducts

Several individuals from Springfield Water & Sewer Commission (SWSC) were present to discuss the recent public notification regarding the disinfection byproducts in the water purchased from SWSC by Southwick including why this has happened and what is being done to fix the issue.

An overview was shown of the SWSC distribution system showing that the water is drawn from the Cobble Mountain Reservoir near Blandford, MA is then sent to the West Parish Filters in Westfield. The water is then sent through either the rapid sand filtration which is the primary

treatment path but at times the slow sand filtration is utilized. The water is then treated with corrosion control and chlorination chemicals then on its way to the Provin Mountain Storage tanks in Agawam via a transmission main. From that main Southwick obtains water by an interconnection.

Disinfection by products are formed when rainfall carries organic materials from the forest into the reservoir. From there the water goes to the treatment plan where filters remove most of the organic materials but some excess can remain. When chlorine is added to the filtered water it reacts with the remaining organics forming the disinfection byproducts. One of these disinfection byproducts is Haloacetic Acids or HAA5s. SWSC touched on some of the challenges they have recently faced one of which being record rainfall in July 2021, two hurricanes in August 2021 which introduced large amount of natural organic materials (NOM) into the reservoir. Due to this there is a higher demand for chlorine plus the higher amount of NOM equals higher amounts of disinfection by products. The other challenge that SWSC has faced is reduced capacity of the rapid sand filters and has had to rely on the slow sand filtration that does not filter NOM as well.

SWSC has ongoing strategies to reduce the amount of disinfection byproducts in the water by optimizing the chlorine dosing, system flushing, coagulant optimization, maximizing the NOM removal via sand filtration and in house monitoring of disinfection byproducts. Long term plans include a new Water Treatment Plant to be put online in 2027 and a Clearwell Backwash Pump which is currently under construction.

The Water Commissioners & SWSC answered a few questions from the public in attendance.

The SWSC Presentation video and handouts are available on the Water Division Website or at: [www.southwickma.org/water-division](http://www.southwickma.org/water-division) under the Water Quality page.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **WATER MORATORIUM**

Nothing to report on this until the transmission main with Springfield Water is complete. Water usage has been consistent with historical usage.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by John Cain the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

**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