



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- Conference Room 2– Hybrid Meeting

Thursday May 19th, 2022 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

Donna Calabrese- 249 Feeding Hills Road

Mike Calabrese- 192 Feeding Hills Road

Diane Gale- 5 Point Grove Road

Andrew- Unknown *

Absent:

Edward Johnson

*= Remote Participation

The meeting was recorded.

The meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was called to order at 6:11pm. Late due to technical issue.

Public Comments: NONE

Review of the May 5th, 2022 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

A MOTION was made by John Cain to accept the May 5th 2022 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

Four Elderly Rate Applications were presented to the Water Commissioners. These applicants met all the necessary requirements.

A MOTION was made by John Cain to accept the four Elderly Rate Applications. This was seconded by John Cain. MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Construction for the water transmission main improvements project with Morais Concrete Service is complete. The new pipeline and Jarry Drive Pump Station are in service.
2. Routine sampling for disinfection byproducts continued with samples taken on 5/10 at Wells 1/2 and Jarry Drive Pump Station. The lab results have not been released. However, when they are another round of public notification will be required for the HAA5 violation that continues from the last round of samples.
3. Christie and Randy are monitoring the streamflow levels in the Westfield River. The threshold that trips mandatory water use restrictions was not yet met, but did come close earlier this week.
4. Water bills for the October 2021 thru March 2022 bill cycle were mailed out and due 5/18.
5. Christie and Keven are working on 2021 Consumer Confidence Report which should be completed and advertised within the next few weeks.
6. MassDEP 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 MassDEP or DCR since late 2021.
7. 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.
8. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections at backflow devices.

APPOINTMENT

6:15pm- 6:47pm 257A Feeding Hills Road Abatement

Donna & Mike Calabrese and Diane Gale were present to discuss the requested abatement of \$7,059.39 due to a water leak at Calabrese Farm. At the time of the meeting this water meter is registering constant usage of 270 gallons an hour. The historical usage shows an increase in consumption from 2017 to present day. Multiple leak notifications were sent out to the property starting in 2018. A letter about high usage at the facility was also sent out in 2021. The property owners believe they know where the water is leaking which is under the retail space and it should have stopped as of this afternoon. The Water Commissioners voted to table this until July until the leak is confirmed to be fixed and more water meter data is captured.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to table until the July meeting. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED*

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

6:47pm Originally set for 6:30pm-6:45pm- 109 Congamond Road Traveltown LLC Abatement

Kurt Saunders was not present for the abatement. A summary was presented to the Water Commissioners. There was a leak due to a frozen outdoor water faucet and a repair was made once they received the leak notification card. The leak had stopped for a few weeks then again the faucet froze causing another leak notification to be sent. At that time the outdoor faucet was completely removed to avoid any further issues. The requested abatement is for \$73.00. Commissioner John Cain suggested that the abatement be denied because the party is not present or tabled until the next meeting to give the applicant a chance to attend and explain their request.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to table until the June meeting. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED*

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

Work Order Summary Provided to Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER MORATORIUM

Over the last year and a half the Water Moratorium has been in place. We had discussed waiting until the water main project was complete before we ended it to make sure we were able to pump the necessary amount of water via the Jarry Drive Pump Station. Since the project has been completed Keven Soper has ran the pumps and tested the flows and the capacity is sufficient to run the Town if need be. Randy Brown has recommended lifting the Water Moratorium.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to lift the Large Water Use Connection Moratorium. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED*

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

WATER RATES

At the last meeting Randy Brown had presented some scenarios for rate adjustments going forward. Some additional rate scenarios were requested and were presented to the Board for review. These scenarios vary with some options having a higher percentage increase at the higher tiers and others change the tier consumption to be more than the current tiers for example tier 1 0-30,000 gallons, tier 2 30,000-45,000 and tier 3 45,000 gallons plus. The Commissioners present decided to table this until the next meeting and some additional scenarios to be provided at the next meeting.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to table the Water Rates until the next meeting. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor. MOTION PASSED*

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

NEW BUSINESS

ARPA Projects

Commissioner John Cain had inquired about any additional ARPA projects. Randy Brown said that he has not heard anything lately but the Town is set to get another contribution from ARPA. The Select Board has indicated that these contributions will go towards other projects. The first contribution was only for water, sewer, or broadband projects but this second contribution is opened up to other types of projects. The Water Department received \$600,000.00 that went towards the Water Main Project that was just completed. The first contribution was a total of about \$1.4 million.

*John Cain made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by Dave Meczywor the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.*

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette
DPW Office Manager

Ed Johnson, Chairman

David Meczywor

John Cain