



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 July 21st, 2022 at 6:00 pm

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

Others Present:

Randy Brown, DPW Director

Christie Myette, DPW Office Manager

Keven Soper, Water Foreman

Diane Gale, 5 Point Grove Rd

Donna Calabrese, 249 Feeding Hills Rd

Mike Calabrese, 192 Feeding Hills Rd

Absent: Edward Johnson, Chairman

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 June 16th, 2022 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Two 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 two Elderly Rate Applications. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Water use restrictions continue to be in effect since 5/31. On 7 /12, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Secretary declared a Level 2 - Significant Drought for the Connecticut River Valley Region, which is an increase from the Level 1- Mild Drought determination on 6/15. A report of all warnings and fines was provided to the Board.

2. MassDEP inspected and approved the new Well 1 chlorination system on 7 /12. This system is now in service.

3. There have been no updates since early June from MassDEP regarding updating the Water Withdrawal Permit. At the time, MassDEP stated that staff from the Boston office would start the permit renewal process.
4. The process of water shut-offs has started. First, demand letters were sent to all users that have not paid their water bill. This week, door knockers are being placed on those that did not pay, followed by shut-offs.
5. 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.
6. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections at backflow devices.

A Work Order Summary was presented to the Commissioners

OLD BUSINESS

257A FEEDING HILLS ROAD ABATEMENT

At prior meeting we had Calabrese Farms at the meeting to discuss an abatement due to a sizable leak in one of their connections. Mike Calabrese has worked with the Water Department to tract down where the leak could be based on isolating sections of the services and checking the usage based on the readings and hourly usage. The leak was found in a line that only feeds one house, a shop and the farm hands barracks. There is minimal water being used in this area because no greenhouses are on it. Most of the usage is toilets and showers and the occasional sprayer fill. The Water Commissioners present discussed the water leak and usage prior to the start of the leak and made the following motion.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to abate \$6,187.17 from the original bill of \$7,181.81. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

NEW BUSINESS

9 COYOTE GLEN FINE

Earlier in the meeting the Water Commissioners were given a list of all the Non-Essential Water Use Restriction warning and fines that were sent out. One of those properties was 9 Coyote Glen who received a warning letter stating that they violated the restrictions which was accompanied by a packet outlining the restrictions. They were sent a second violation for water usage on a few dates 8/22, 8/24, 8/25 which was sent with a \$50.00 fine. They sent in a letter which was provided to the Board which stated after receiving the warning they thought they had fixed it but they had not which resulted in the fine. They are asking for this fine to be waived. The homeowner was not present for this discussion.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to deny the contest of the fine for 9 Coyote Glen and move forward with the fine. Seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

EMAILS PROVIDED TO COMMISSIONERS

Randy Brown provided copies of emails between Carol Boedicker who was present at the last meeting as well as Duane Levangie from Mass DEP in regards to the Water Restrictions and questions she had asked during that meeting. Randy was cc'd on these emails and wanted to pass them along to the board to review.

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