



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 December 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm

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

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

Guests: Ermalinda Rae, 15 Falmouth Road  
Diane Gale, 5 Point Grove Road  
Mike Calabrese, 257 Feeding Hills Road

\*= Remote Attendance

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 October 20, 2022 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to accept the October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

Eighteen Elderly Rate Applications were presented to the Water Commissioners. These applicants met all the necessary requirements. Two Elderly Rate Applications were provided to the Commissioners which were questionable. One of those applicants did not meet the age requirement and would have to reapply after they turn 65. The second application is for a property where they have an ongoing water leak and have yet to have it fixed. It was discussed that this location should not receive a lower rate while this water leak is active. The following motions were made:

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to accept the Elderly Rate Application for the eighteen applicants who meet all necessary requirements. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

***MOTION PASSED***

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

The applicant at 4 Shore Road will have to reapply after they turn 65 years old which is after the next billing.

A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to deny the applicant at 75 Sam West Road until the leaks are repaired. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Abstain*

*John Cain: Yes*

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. MassDEP and DCR started developing a Water Needs Survey to identify the Town's water needs over the next 10 years. Randy and Jon Goddard (Town Planner) had a conference call with DCR staff on 11/28 to discuss locations of potential growth over the next few years.
2. Another round of public notifications were sent to all water users regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter haloacetic acids (HAA5) sample results taken on 11/8 at Wells 1/2 and Jarry Drive Pump Station. HAA5 samples were lower than the last three quarterly samples, but the average of the 4 samples is still high enough to trigger a violation. It is likely that future rounds of public notification will be required quarterly for the HAA5 violation that continues from the last several rounds of samples.
3. The latest PFAS samples were taken in early October at Wells 1 and 2. The results were No Detect in Well 1 and 2.10 PPT in Well 2 which is below the 20 PPT Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Southwick Water will continue to sample for PFAS at both Wells 1 and 2 on a yearly basis. Sample results are posted on the Town website.
4. Lead and copper samples were taken this fall at 40 households plus two schools and one daycare. All of the samples were below the MCL. Results were mailed to the homeowners.
5. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continues to perform inspections at backflow devices. The water service to 55 Sam West Road was cut and capped at the main. The owner will need to replace the water service from the curb stop and install a set-up for a meter and backflow prior to re-establishing this service.

A Work Order Summary was provided to the Water Commissioners.

**OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE**

Randy Brown is part of the Master Plan Committee which also meets tonight. A year ago Dave Meczywor was made the liaison for the Water Commissioners. In January some focus groups will be meeting in which Dave will be a part of on behalf of the board to represent the Water Commissioners.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **6:10pm 581 College Highway Abatement**

This abatement was for an intermittent leak during the most recent billing cycle. The property is a rental and the owner was unaware of the issue but found that a toilet was intermittently leaking which caused an increase of 25,000 gallons. Once the issue was found repairs were made the same day. The abatement request is for \$250.00 which is equivalent to 34,000 gallons of water at the tier 3 rate. No one was present at the meeting on behalf of this abatement request. A short discussion took place and the following motion was made.

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

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

### **6:16pm 15 Falmouth Road Abatement (Appointment taken early)**

The homeowners were not aware of the water leak until they received a leak notification postcard in the mail. Once they received the notification they went around checking faucets and found that the underground hose that goes to their garden was broken. They fixed it once the leak was found. The leak started on June 6<sup>th</sup> and was found and repaired on June 16<sup>th</sup>. During that time 7,800 gallons of water was used in addition to their normal usage of 155 gallons per day. The requested abatement was for \$75.00 the equivalent of 10,600 gallons at tier 2 rate. Based on the amount lost the following motion was made.

A **MOTION** was made by John Cain abate \$55.19 for 15 Falmouth Road. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

### **6:20pm 257A Feeding Hills Road Abatement (Appointment taken early)**

This abatement request is for a water line that was leaking for which an abatement was issued for the last bill. This abatement request is for water lost from April to June when the repairs were being made. Since then this line has been completely replaced from the water meter. This work was completed in the last month and a half but water was no longer leaking as of July 1<sup>st</sup> when the greenhouse were shutdown. A short discussion took place and the following motion was made.

A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to abate \$1,095.00 off the water bill for 257A Feeding Hills Road. This was seconded by John Cain.

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

## **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED**

### **MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE**

Commissioners John Cain had a question about if there have been any discussions about infrastructure during the master plan meetings. Randy Brown said at this point there have been

only high level conversations. After the focus group conversations there will be more in depth discussions going forward.

*John Cain made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by Dave Meczywor the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

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