



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 DPW Facility – Hybrid Meeting Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Members in Attendance: Edward Johnson, Chairman  
Dave Meczywor, Commissioner  
John Cain, Commissioner (Present at 6:01pm)

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

Guests: NONE

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 2, 2023\* Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

\*- Agenda listed February 2, 2022 meeting minutes which was corrected to be 2023.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the February 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes. This was seconded by John Cain.*

*MOTION PASSED*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: - Yes*

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

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

*MOTION PASSED*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. MassDEP and DCR continued developing a Water Needs Survey to identify the Town's water needs over the next 10 years.
2. There is a commercial subdivision proposed for 686 College Highway with access off Tannery Road. The Planning Board will open a hearing for a Special Permit later in February. DPW

provided comments relative to the proposed water connections. The Public Hearing is still open.

3. Christie and Keven finalized the Annual Statistical Report. The key metrics for 2022 are as follows:
  - a. Residential gallons per capita day (RGPCD) - 74
  - b. Unaccounted for water - 9%
4. Christie finalized the Consumer Confidence Report which will be published on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>.
5. Another round of Public Notifications were sent to all water users regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter haloacetic acids (HAA5) sample results taken on 2/14 at 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.
6. EPA released draft regulations for PFAS (sum of 6 compounds). MCL's for PFOA and PFOS are proposed at 4 PPT each. MCL's for PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFHxS, and PFBS are based on a Hazard Index, which is a new concept. More to come on how these proposed regulations will impact Southwick Water.
7. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems gave his notice that he cannot perform inspections at backflow devices any more. Jeff Vedovelli is willing to take on the role as the new inspector. Jeff will start later this month.
8. Water bills will be issued on 4/17 and due on 5/18.
9. Randy and Christie are looking into ways to help identify violators of the water restrictions thru add-ons to the meter reading program.

A Work Order Summary was provided to the Water Commissioners.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

NONE

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **WHALLEY PARK-SPRAY PARK**

At the last meeting we had two representatives present from Park and Rec to discuss the proposed plan for a spray park. There were some details missing from the existing plan, they agreed that they would come back with a revised plan. After that meeting a request went to the Community Preservation Committee to up the requested fund by \$30,000. No more details were provided. This will go to the Town Meeting for a vote. We hope to have more of an update for our next meeting.

### **HANKIN PROPERTY**

Randy met with 2 representatives of Mr. Hankin's family and discussed what they are interested in doing with the land. It was mentioned selling the back portion of the land which is made up of mostly wetlands and keeping a building lot that is towards the front which has frontage on Lexington Circle to sell. The Water Department may be able to purchase the back portion with a drinking water protection grant. The two representatives were going to discuss with the rest of the family and would reach back out to us.

## FY2024 BUDGET

Randy Brown and Ed Johnson attended the FY24 Budget Meeting. There were not many questions from the Select Board & Finance Committee other than about water restrictions. The final budget will be voted on at Town Meeting scheduled for May 16, 2023.

## NEW BUSINESS

### WATER SERVICE INVENTORY & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PLAN

Mass DEP has created this new regulation for all water systems to undertake for a Water Service Inventory. This is to target any lead service lines in the water system. This is likely in response to the issues that arose in Flint Michigan about 4 years ago where high levels of lead were found in the drinking water. Keven and the Water Department Crew are not aware of any lead service lines in our system we have yet to see any but this process will ensure that we do not have any. We will be going through water service cards and following up on any unknowns. There are a few other ways to test for lead service lines by a basement inspection or a vacuum test which involves digging up the service line in the yard.

There is grant money available to pay for consultants to help complete the service inventory. The Board would have to vote to apply for the grant from Mass Clean Water Trust and allowing the Select Board to accept the grant on behalf of the Water Department as they are the only ones able to do this for the Town.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to apply for the Clean Water Trust Grant for Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacement Plan. This was seconded by John Cain.*

*MOTION PASSED*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by John Cain the meeting was adjourned at 6.18 pm.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Edward Johnson: Yes*

*Dave Meczywor: Yes*

*John Cain: Yes*

*MEETING ADJOURNED*

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette, DPW Office Manager

---

Ed Johnson, Chairman

---

David Meczywor

---

John Cain