



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, May 18th, 2023 at 6:00 pm

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

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

Absent: John Cain, Commissioner

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 April 6th, 2023* Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to accept the April 6th 2023 Meeting Minutes. This was seconded by Edward Johnson.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes Dave Meczywor: Yes

Seven 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 seven applicants who meet all necessary requirements. This was seconded by Edward Johnson.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes Dave Meczywor: Yes

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. DCR finished the Water Needs Survey to identify the Town's water needs over the next 10 years. A copy of the letter was attached. Randy Brown discussed how we would go about being permitted for more water. Which possibly would include the Water Department purchasing more water from Springfield. Randy is working with a consultant who is helping to develop a minimization plan. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
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. The 2nd samples for tri-halomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5) were taken on 5/9 at Jarry Drive Pump Station. Results are expected to be returned in the next week or so. If the results are at the level they were last time we will not be in violation any longer and will not have to send out the public notification mailing.
4. The spring 2023 lead and copper samples were taken at 40 residential properties plus schools. The results showed no exceedance of the Action Levels. Results were mailed back to the respective property owners.
5. Jeff Vedovelli started performing inspections at backflow devices in April and will continue until the spring test are completed.

A Work Order Summary was provided to the Water Commissioners.

APPOINTMENTS

6:10pm-237 COLLEGE HIGHWAY ABATEMENT (Discussed at 6:14pm)

Barbara Page the resident at 237 College Highway filed for an abatement due to a toilet leak. This was an intermittent leak until 11.29.2022 and it flagged in the leak report on 12.5.2022. We sent out a Water Leak Notification postcard and repairs were made on 12.8.2022. Barbara called us on 12.16.2022 to verify that the leak had stopped and to inquire about how much was lost. The Water Commissioners viewed her historical usage and the current usage for this billing and made the following motion.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to abate \$100.00 off the water bill for 237 College Highway. This was seconded by Edward Johnson.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes

Dave Meczywor: Yes

OLD BUSINESS

WHALLEY PARK-SPRAY PARK

In February representatives of Park and Rec came to our meeting to discuss a spray park for Whalley Park. This was a result of a CPC (Community Preservation Committee) application for funds to build the spray park. At the meeting in February we discussed the water usage and what the plan was for the water after it goes through the spray park. There were a few unknowns and once those plans were finalized we would be receive an update. At this time we have not been given an update. Randy Brown advised the Board that Park and Rec asked for some additional

funding for the project from CPC but it was not outlined what the additional funds were for specifically. At the Town Meeting earlier this week the application was voted on and approved by the townspeople after discussion of the amount of water usage and concerns with the water restrictions were raised. The spray park would not be subject to the restrictions as it's for public health and safety as a cooling station. Once an update is available it will be brought to the board.

HANKIN PROPERTY

Randy met with 2 representatives of Mr. Hankin's family and discussed what they are interested in doing with the land. Since that meeting they have decided to put the land on the market to see what they can get for it. At this time there is no more action to be taken about this topic.

NEW BUSINESS

WATER SERVICE CALL RATES

The Water Commissioners were given two spreadsheet in regards to the water service call rates. These rates haven't been discussed in a few years the most recent changes occurred in November of 2020. The first spreadsheet outlines various services we bill for the first column shows the current charge the next is the proposed charges and the next seven columns are what local systems are charging for the same service. The grayed out boxes indicate that there was no information available in regards to that particular service. The second spreadsheet provided to the Commissioners includes rates for labor which are determined by union contracts so they are not decided by the board and vehicle and equipment charges which are billed per hour. We rarely have situations where we bill for equipment usage but it is necessary that the cost of the equipment is covered if the need arises. The rates were discussed and the following motion was made.

*A **MOTION** was made by Dave Meczywor to raise the Water Service Call Rates to the "proposed" amount listed on both spreadsheets which are to be attached to the minutes. This was seconded by Edward Johnson.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes

Dave Meczywor: Yes

RESIDENT EMAIL

This was an addition to the new business section of the meeting. An email was sent by Charles & Jeanne Margarites commending Keven Soper and the Water Department Staff for a job well done in restoring their property back to the original condition prior to a water leak that was identified to be on their property but was actually located closer to the road. They were very pleased with their work.

NEXT MEETING

The tentative date for the next meeting will be June 15th 2023.

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by Edward Johnson the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.*

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes

Dave Meczywor: Yes

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christie Myette, DPW Office Manager

Ed Johnson, Chairman

David Meczywor

John Cain