



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, January 4, 2024 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: Patrick Roche- 44 Powder Mill Road
John Rock- 79 Sam West Road

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 November 16th, 2023 Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

A MOTION was made by John Cain to accept the November 16th, 2023 Meeting Minutes. This was seconded by Edward Johnson. **MOTION PASSED**

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes

John Cain: Yes

Dave Meczywor: Abstain

Six 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 six 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

APPOINTMENT

6:03pm 18 HUDSON DRIVE-WHALLEY

Patrick Roche & John Rock were in attendance on behalf of John Whalley regarding a bill in the amount of \$4,170.35 for repairs to a water main at 18 Hudson Drive. The claim is that the water

lines are mismarked by approximately 7 ft therefore that was the cause of the damage to the water main and Mr. Whalley should not be responsible for paying for the repairs.

DPW Director Randy Brown gave some background information about this property. It is a new warehouse located at 18 Hudson Drive next to the existing building. Part of this project was the relocation and replacement of a drywell that was in the way of the proposed driveway at the location. The marks were on the road not right over the water main but off by about 2 to 3ft. The morning on October 6th 2023 Randy received a call from Mr. Whalley prior that there was no notification or indication that this work would be taking place that day. No digsafes were called in for this work. The DPW Supervisor was sent out to the location by Randy at about 10:30 to go over what work was planning on being done. Then the water crew was called to the location to mark the lines. There were existing lines from an earlier digsafes not related to this project. At about 1:30pm the DPW was notified of the damage to the water line. When DPW arrived on scene no one was at the location of the break. The bill was sent for the cost of repairing this water main. The Commissioners discussed the digsafes procedures that were not followed and all recent digsafes tickets were reviewed and there were no active tickets for this work. The closest digsafes was 6 months ago for infiltration work. It was discussed to forward this to the Department of Public Utilities for a Digsafes Violation and let that process decide who is responsible.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to refer this matter to the DPU for a potential Digsafes Violation. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

One more Elderly Rate Application was to be reviewed for 16 Sawgrass Lane. Shortly before bills were mailed the homeowners son came to the office requesting for his name to be put on the water bill at the location. Due to our process, we could issue the bill to the homeowner in care of her son. Randy has a contact email for the homeowner so he emailed her to advise her of the requested change. She replied back that she paid the current bill but she would prefer to pay the bills in the future as he has a lot on his plate with his 4 kids. When looking over the account it was found that she was on the elderly rate and a letter was sent for her to verify her current situation. There was a response from the homeowner on the application. The Commissioners discussed the issue and the following motion was made.

*A **MOTION** was made by John Cain to return the application and keep the account as is before the requested change. This was seconded by Dave Meczywor.*

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call Vote:

Edward Johnson: Yes

Dave Meczywor: Yes

John Cain: Yes

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Grouf's Water Leak Services completed a Town-wide leak detection in early December. A preliminary list of 9 locations were flagged for potential leaks, many of which have been addressed.

2. Jeff Vedovelli completed the 2023 inspections on backflow devices. Jeff will return in the spring for this years' testing.
3. On 12/8, there was a water main leak on Granville Road that was repaired by DPW crews. This leak occurred at the same location as the break a few weeks earlier and was the result of leaking curb stop.
4. On 12/19, there was a water main break on College Highway just south of Big Y that was a result of a corroded water service saddle. This was repaired by DPW crews.
5. On 12/20, DPW opened quotes for Well 2 rehabilitation. Contract was awarded to Weston & Sampson CMR with a price of \$27,275. Two other quotes were received from Maher Services and Layne Christensen Company. Work includes cleaning and refurbishing Well 2 pump and motor and is expected to start late winter or early spring.
6. FY25 Budget packets were distributed to Department Heads on 1/2. Budget items will be discussed more at the next meeting.

Work Order Summary was provided to the Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS

PFAS LITIGATION

Nothing new to report regarding PFAS. We are reaching out to Town Counsel to provide us with feedback. This will be continued until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING: January 18th 2024

*Dave Meczywor made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by John Cain the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 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