



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 Thursday, December 7, 2017

Members in Attendance: Edward Johnson, Chairman  
Dave Meczywor  
Luther Hosmer

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

Guests: Alain Peteroy, Franklin Land Trust  
David Gunn, 2 Hickory Lane  
John Whalley, 38 Foster Road  
Dennis Clark, 75 Fred Jackson Road

The meeting was recorded.

Sign in attendance sheet was provided for guests.

The meeting of the Water Commissioners was called to order at 6:00pm in Conference Room 2.

Review of the August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Minutes

*A MOTION was made by Dave Meczywor to accept August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 minutes. This was seconded by Luther Hosmer. Motion passed.*

Review of the October 19, 2017 Minutes

*A MOTION was made by Dave Meczywor to accept August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 minutes. This was seconded by Edward Johnson. Motion passed.*

No Elderly Rate Application submitted.

#### **DPW DIRECTORS REPORT:**

1. East National Water is continuing to install water meters. We have about 220+/- accounts that have yet to have their meter replaced. ENW will install more meters in town but will only do so once they have enough appointments.

2. Tighe and Bond have started to design the College Highway Water main and Pump Station Improvement project. They are evaluating relocating the College Highway Pump Station vs. upgrading the existing station.
3. The Southwick Country Club was sold for development. Approximately 60 housing units are proposed. The developer will submit a subdivision plan to the Planning Board for approval likely sometime over the next few months.
4. On 11/28, there was a leak in front of the Southwick Country Club. The contractor was excavating for a perc test and broke the fire service to the restaurant. DPW crews were available to assist with the repair.
5. The owner of 9 Wynnfield Circle contact DPW with a report of a possible leak on 10/27 that could be heard through the service line. DPW notified Atrium and all parties agreed that there was indeed a leak. Atrium attempted to locate the leak but was unsuccessful and the leak surfaced on 11/30. DPW crews assisted in the repairs.
6. Emil Pustea of Sigma Water Systems continued backflow inspections. A summary of tests to date is as follows:
  - a. Total Tests: 157
  - b. Total Failed: 22
  - c. Total Re-test/Passes: 11
  - d. Total New Surveys (Requires new device): 3 (Whalley Precision, Southwick AH & Laba Dry Cleaners)
7. FY19 Budget Reports are due to the Town Accountant by 1/12. This will be reviewed with the Water Commissioners at our next meeting.
8. Water Bills will be going out in the mail later this week and will be due January 10, 2018. There were 2,618 bills issued, estimated at \$424,492.61 in water usage.

**A work order summary was presented to Commissioners.**

#### **APPOINTMENT**

##### **6:15pm to 6:30pm-Franklin Land Trust**

Alain Peteroy of the Franklin Land Trust and some supporter of the purchase of the 146 acres also known as the North Pond Property. It was voted on at last town meeting to put in \$25,000 which would be to secure a water line easement. A portion of that land has been purchased about 84 acres of it by Wildlife, Fish and Game for \$1 million. They are \$1.5 Million short which they are trying to obtain this by private donations, grants and funding from private foundations. Alain Peteroy and the Franklin Land Trust came to the Water Commissioners to ask for another contribution from the board. If this funding is not secured by the June deadline then more than likely it will be sold for development.

The Board of Water Commissioners ended the appointment and would be discussing their thought under new business.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **WATER METER INSTALLATION FEE**

This round of water billings included a Meter Reading Charge of \$25.00 for those who have not gotten their meter upgraded. We are hoping that this will help people call in and make an appointment to have the meter changed over. This will be discussed at a future meeting to see if this was successful.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **WATER CONNECTION FEES**

Randy was looking to revisit the Water Connection Fee that we charge with the new development. The fees are \$825.00 for Sub-Divisions \$1,200.00 New Service.

### **231 PONTOOSIC ROAD WATER CONNECTION**

This was a request of a property owner to connect to water at this location. Mitch and Karen Bannish 235 Pontoosic Road are Southwick Water Customers. They are the first house over the line in Westfield. They are looking to connect to water. They asked Westfield for a connection. At first Westfield said no then they came back with yes but it will cost roughly \$10,000.00. Randy said that they need to have to see a signoff from Westfield before we could take them as a customer. We will look into the process if Mitch and Karen Bannish plan to pursue this.

### **SERVICE LINE LEAK- 3 FOSTER RD.**

There is a service line leak at 3 Foster Road they were sent a letter giving them 30 days to repair the service. They contacted us a few times after the 30 days and said that the contractor rescheduled a few times. This service has since been fixed but in the future what will the process be if someone doesn't repair or replace a service line? This could become a real problem is a leak is not replaced in a timely fashion it could cause a sink hole on their property or can affect the roadway or a neighbors property; it's also unmetered water being lost.

### **CEMETERY WATER SERVICE**

Cemetery Dept has been difficult to deal with lately. They have 2 service lines that are metered. They contacted us just before Thanksgiving to come shut the water off and blow out the water lines, which we have done in the past. They are saying now that there are going to be leaks in the system and we will have to fix it in the spring. The Commissioners would like Randy to draft a letter to notify the Cemetery Dept. that in the future their services should be shut off by October 15<sup>th</sup> and including that we are not responsible for any issues with their pipes if a leak should develop.

### **PUMP STATION GAP GRANT APPLICATION**

DOER a state agency is offering a Gap Grant Funding for energy saving projects. A consultant did a free energy audit. A table was provided to explain the cost of the generator replacement at the pump stations then outlines the possible energy savings and other funding sources. This then gives the total amount for which the gap grant was applied for which is about \$40,000.00.

#### WYNNFIELD WATER LEAK

This was discussed in the Director's Report. A copy of the bill was provided to the Water Commissioners. We charged them the OT rates for the crews that were there and the estimated water lost during the break.

#### 150 BERKSHIRE AVE- WATER LEAK

Commissioner Luther Hosmer brought up that the homeowner at 150 Berkshire Ave contacted him about a possible water leak. He recommended that the homeowner contact a contractor to check the service line. The service line was found to have a small leak. The homeowner had the service line replaced. Since then the homeowner can still hear running water at the meter. We are aware of the problem and Randy will be getting together with the Water Foreman about looking into this further.

#### NORTH POND LAND PURCHASE DISCUSSION

After meeting with the Franklin Land Trust and the supporters of the North Pond Land Purchase it seems as though they are initially looking for \$140,000.00 and possibly some money each year going forward. An email was provided to the Water Commissioners that was sent November 30<sup>th</sup> asking for \$375,000.00. Some handouts were provided that show what the Water Commissioners have done for the project.

*A MOTION was made by Luther Hosmer to deny any further funding for the North Pond Property. This was seconded by David Meczywor and the motion passes unanimously.*

*Luther Hosmer made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** this was seconded by Dave Meczywor the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.*

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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Luther Hosmer