



Approved: 3/27/2024
(date)

**TOWN OF PAXTON
Water Commissioners
Minutes of Meeting**

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: John Bauer Senior Center, 17 West Street, Paxton, MA

Present: David Trulson (DT), Vice Chair
Rodney Jenkins (RJ), Clerk
Travis Thibault (TT), Director of Public Works

Absent: John Malone (JM), Chair

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to accept the regular meeting minutes from the October 24, 2023 meeting.

West Street Water Main Project Update

(TT) has discussed financing options with consultant, Tata & Howard. They do not believe that we'll be approved for the One Stop Grant if we apply again, and recommend focusing on other opportunities such as a USDA loan, a FEMA grant, or an SRF loan. (RJ) asked (TT) to get an estimate of the annual cost of a USDA loan.

Discussion of Water Rates

PMLD has been notified that the flat fee meter rate will increase to \$27.00 as of January 1, 2024. (TT) states that the proposed FY25 budget needs require further review, including adding approximately \$10,000 for leak detection. The unaccounted for water rate has been high and it may be necessary to hire a contractor to perform leak detection.

Director Updates and Reports

- SUEZ has requested pushing off the internal cleaning of the Asnebumskit water tank to April of 2024
- There are 6 properties that still have old water meters. It may be necessary to install meter pits at these properties if the Department is not able to change out the meter. (RJ)

said to shut off water (with proper notifications) starting in April 2024, and that the Department should not have to foot the bill to install the meter pits.

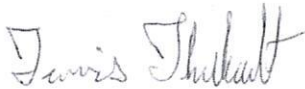
- There are several dozen Badger meters that have radio devices that are not sending signals; the Department will be working on getting these radio devices moved outside or swapped out.
- All leak and unaccounted for water data has been updated and the UAW figure is 24%. Staff is performing leak detection.
- The Department received another grant through MIIA for \$10,000 for an additional trench box that can be stacked for deep digs.
- The box and rod at Howe's Farm and Garden were replaced by Water Department staff as it was broken when staff tried to shut it off for the season.
- There are issues behind the dam including flooding on the back side. Staff may need to take a canoe or kayak into the area to investigate further.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024.

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Travis Thibault".

Travis Thibault, Director of Public Works