



# **TOWN OF PAXTON**

## **Water Commissioners**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Place: John Bauer Senior Center, 17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612**

Attendees: John Malone (JM), Commissioner; David Trulson (DT), Commissioner; Travis Thibault (TT), Water Superintendent; Carol Riches (CR), Town Administrator; Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Rodney Jenkins (RJ), Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

#### **Minutes**

Motion (DT) seconded (JM) to accept the meeting minutes of March 13, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor.

#### **771 Pleasant Street Contractor**

On April 4, 2019, the Water Department went to a newly built house at 771 Pleasant Street to install a water meter and turn on the water. Upon arriving, (TT) discovered that the contractor had already turned on the water himself, thereby stealing water. (TT) shut off the water and notified the contractor that what he did was theft and that the issue would need to be discussed with the Board of Water Commissioners before the water would be turned on.

Motion (DT) seconded (JM) to fine the contractor \$574.45 for theft of water and the water will not be turned on until said fine is paid in full. Unanimous, all in favor. The contractor will also be flagged with the Town Services Coordinator.

#### **Asnebumskit Tank Issues / Sanitary Survey Recommendations and Deficiencies**

The DEP performed a Sanitary Survey in early February 2019. The DEP listed deficiencies and recommendations and the Water Department will be required to fix all deficiencies and prepare and submit a plan with a scope of work and timeline of actions to address all deficiencies at the Asnebumskit tank by November 1, 2019. Specifically, issues that need to be addressed at the tank are: repair of the dome roof, which will include draining the tank to make repairs internally; coating the interior of the tank; installing a mixing valve inside the tank; filling the cracks on the exterior of the tank; updating the vent and installing safety guides around same; installing a guardrail and fence system around the hatch; installing a ladder on the outside of the tank and drainage work around the outside of the tank. (TT) notes that the report done by Suez states that there are no structural deficiencies with the tank, just degradation of the dome. Suez gave a verbal, rough estimate of approximately \$500,000 to \$700,000 to do all repairs stated in their report, however, they are still compiling an official estimate. Suez also estimates that performing all suggested repairs will extend the life of the current tank by approximately 25 years.

(TT) reminded the Board that before any work can be done at the Asnebumskit tank, the Maple Street tank has to be tied into the SCADA system, which (TT) suspects will cost about \$15,000-\$20,000.

(DT) asked (TT) what the cost would be to replace the Asnebumskit tank, which was built in 1974/1975. (TT) stated that Tata & Howard provided an estimate of \$1,500,000 to replace the tank with a 500,000 gallon tank. (JM) asked how many gallons the town uses a day; (TT) stated that the town averages 270,000 gallons a day, and the Maple Street tank can hold 209,000 gallons, but typically holds about 160,000-180,000 gallons.

Once Suez provides the full estimate for the repairs, the Board will meet to discuss the monetary amount to be entered into an article for Town Meeting. (TT) suggests that the Department focus on connecting the Maple Street tank to the SCADA system and repairing the dome, installing a mixing system and sealing the interior of the top of the Asnebumskit tank this coming fiscal year.

In the Sanitary Survey, the DEP also stated that the chlorine analyzer at the pump station needs to be removed and a new diaphragm system installed in its place. (TT) states this will cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Additionally, a dichlorination system will need to be installed at the pump station.

### **Pump Station / Gap II Grant Update**

(TT) stated that all work has been completed at the pump station as per the Gap II Grant. The new motors were installed, wired and the hole from the old unit was repaired. (TT) will pick up a dehumidifier as per the specifications of the grant and work on completing paperwork to receive the 80% reimbursement.

### **Town of Paxton Rain Barrel Program**

(CR) requested that the Water Department contribute \$10 per rain barrel to residents who wish to purchase them. The Water Department will pay the \$10 per rain barrel purchased to the town in one lump sum. Motion (JM) seconded (DT) to contribute \$10 per rain barrel to residents. Unanimous, all in favor.

### **Water Breaks and New Services**

On March 14, 2019, (TT) was notified of a break on Mount View Drive. (TT) investigated the break around 9:30 p.m. and made the decision to wait until the morning of March 15, 2019 to repair the break. Said repair took approximately 14 hours. (TT) reported that there is 2" iron pipe in that area, and it does not appear to be in good shape. The Department cut out 8-10' of pipe and ran new copper to feed the service for the two homes in the cul-de-sac.

On March 25, 2019, Wachusett Landscaping replaced the service at 8 Birchwood Drive.

On April 8, 2019, the Water Department received confirmation from the Light Department that the \$300 invoice for the breaks at 17 Red Oak Street had been paid in full by the customer.

### **Leaks**

On March 25, 2019, the Water Department performed a leak audit at 38 Lancelot Drive per the customer's request. (TT) believed that a leaky toilet was the source of a leak. A new meter was installed and registered the leak. When the toilet was shut off, the leak stopped. (TT) will hold the old meter for a few months in the event that the customer asks for it to be tested.



On March 26, 2019, the Water Department resumed leak detection throughout town. Three hydrants were found to be weeping and were tightened. (TT) believes there is another break in the driveway of 8 Birchwood Drive and plans to dig there next Tuesday. (TT) estimates 25,000 gallons of water is being lost there per day.

### **Employees / Workmen's Comp.**

David Tardie was out on March 28 and March 29, 2019 with an acute ankle sprain. All required paperwork was submitted, and David returned to work on April 1, 2019.

### **23 Monticello Drive**

On April 10, 2019, the customer at 23 Monticello Drive contacted the Water Department about a high bill. A new meter was installed at this property on February 25, 2019. The old meter was found to have damage to the wire that did not appear intentional. (TT) stated that this damage was likely hindering the old meter from sending a signal. After researching the account, it appeared that the last normal reading was in July 2016. Since then, the customer has only been paying for a monthly meter fee and minimal, if any, water. (TT) calculated that the customer owed \$1,112.83 in back water charges. Motion (JM) seconded (DT) to reduce the amount due from the customer by 50% as the malfunction of the old meter should have been detected sooner. Unanimous, all in favor.

### **GIS Mapping Grant**

(TT) received an email stating that everyone who applied for the GIS Mapping Grant will be approved, likely sometime in May 2019.

**Next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2019.**

**Motion (DT) seconded (JM) to adjourn meeting at 8:23 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant

Accepted:   
John Malone, Chair