



Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

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

**Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023**

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

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

Present: John Malone (JM), Chair  
David Trulson (DT), Vice Chair  
Rodney Jenkins (RJ), Clerk  
Travis Thibault (TT), Director of Public Works  
Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to accept the regular meeting minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting. Unanimous, all in favor.

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to accept the Executive meeting minutes from the January 19, 2023 Executive Session. Unanimous, all in favor.

### **Approval of January 2023 Billings Rendered**

The Board reviewed and signed the January 2023 Billings Rendered.

### **VFD Replacement at Pump Station**

One of the VFDs at the Pleasant Street pump station failed. (TT) requested quotes from four companies; only one responded. LaFleur Electrical Contractors submitted a quote for \$9,950 and will begin the work soon.

### **Billing Contract with Paxton Municipal Light Department**

The current billing contract with PMLD expires June 30, 2023. (TT) met with the General Manager of PMLD and PMLD provided contract prices for the next three years of water billing, which will be increases of 3% for FY24, 2.5% for FY25 and 2.5% for FY26. The PMLD General Manager is updating the contract and a copy will be provided at the next meeting.

## **FY24 Budget**

The Board reviewed an updated draft of the proposed FY24 budget. (TT) noted that there was a large increase in the Worcester County Retirement line item. The Board asked (TT) to get more information on why the increase is so large. (TT) also noted that his contract has not been finalized, and his salary amount may change. (TT) hopes to provide the final version of the proposed budget at the next meeting.

## **Director Updates and Reports**

On January 27, 2023, Brierly Lombard removed the leaking pump at the pump station and swapped it out with the rebuilt pump. They took the failed pump back to their shop to rebuild it.

On February 1, 2023, there was a service leak on the town's side at 4 Baxter Drive. The Water and Highway Departments made the repair.

On February 4, 2023, Dispatch called to report frozen pipes at 5 Davidson Road. The Water Foreman went to the property and assisted the homeowner, including talking him through how to de-thaw the pipes.

On February 6, 2023, the homeowner at 21 Asnebumskit Road called about frozen pipes. The Water Department assisted him in pumping out the cellar, swapping the meter and getting the water back on.

On February 7, 2023, the Water Department was notified of burst pipes at 31 Crowningshield Drive, which was vacant at the time. The Water Department shut off the water and assisted the Fire Department in pumping out the cellar.

(TT) is in the process of requesting quotes to have the Maple Street water tank cleaned this Fall. (TT) reminded the Board that when it is time to have the Asnebumskit Tank cleaned, a hydrant will have to be cut into the main there. The last quotes to do this were approximately \$8,500.

The Water Department is constantly out doing leak detection. Each time, small leaks and main breaks have been located. However, the unaccounted for water remains high.

The City of Worcester states that they will be having the master meter calibrated soon. (TT) will look at the contract to see if there is any language about whether the Water Department will be reimbursed if the meter is out of calibration in the Department's favor.

The Annual Statistical Report is due March 31, 2023. (TT) hopes to have information pertaining to the report available at the next meeting.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2023.

Motion (DT) seconded (RJ) to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Unanimous, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant