



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

**Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020**

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

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

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

Absent: John Malone (JM), Commissioner

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

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to accept the meeting minutes from November 21, 2019.  
Unanimous, all in favor.

**Request for Service Application / Review for Approval**

There have been three new service requests: 38 Village Road, 40 Village Road and 226 Richards Avenue. All three have been paid. The Board reviewed, approved and signed the applications.

**Asnebumskit Tank Rehabilitation Project**

The Asnebumskit water tank is filled and back online. The mixer still needs to be installed, but a new electrical service must be installed first. The Foreman from the Paxton Municipal Light Department has looked at the project and is getting a quote for wire. The tank will need to be offline for 1-2 weeks when the mixer is installed and new samples will need to be drawn. Once the electric service is replaced, Suez will come in and put the mixer in. Suez will return to do the external work on the tank in the Spring of 2020. The Water Department will need to put in some new drainage to eliminate any water potentially pooling around the outside of the tank.

**Massachusetts WARN**

The Water Department wishes to join MAWARN, the Massachusetts Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network. Being a member of the organization is completely free and there is no obligation to provide services. The organization sets up mutual aid scenarios between towns when emergencies arise. The Board reviewed, accepted and signed the Agreement to become a member.

### **Emergency Response Plan Update**

Tata and Howard has provided a quote of \$5,000.00 plus related expenses to update the Water Department's Emergency Response Plan. (TT) suggests holding off for a few months due to budget constraints.

### **SCADA System Upgrade**

(TT) advises that the SCADA system is in desperate need of upgrading and says this has also been suggested by Bob Brown, whose company Yield Management, has to service the existing system every few weeks. R.E. Erickson will schedule a time to come out and look at the existing system and then will provide a quote for upgrading. A rough estimate is between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

### **16 Dunanderry Way**

The new homeowner at 16 Dunanderry Way contacted the Water Department about connecting to town water. There is a water service that feeds the house, which was likely done at the time the house was built, but there is no record of a fee being paid to the Town of Paxton. In order to connect the property town water, the Water Department would need to do some work on the connection. The Board stated that if the town does not have a record of a tie-in fee being paid, and the homeowner cannot provide proof of payment, then the homeowner would need to pay a tie-in fee before service is provided.

### **Superintendent Updates and Reports**

On November 27, 2019, (TT) met the Foreman from the Paxton Municipal Light Department at the Asnebumskit water tank to look at updating the electrical service.

On December 3-4, 2019, Suez removed the scaffolding from the Asnebumskit water tank. On December 4, 2019, the Water Department began filling the tank; the tank was finished being filled on December 6, 2019.

On December 5, 2019, (TT), David Tardie and Michael Putnam attended Emergency Response Training in Leicester.

On December 8-9, 2019, the Water Department drew samples for the Asnebumskit tank. On December 18, 2019 the Water Department received confirmation that the samples were within allowed limits.

On December 14, 2019, there was a break to the 12" main on Holden Road.

On December 18, 2019, (TT) made a presentation to the Paxton Senior Men's Club.

On December 18, 2019, the 2" chemical feed line at the Maple Street tank broke.

On December 19, 2019, the DEP approved putting the Asnebumskit tank back online; it was done the same day.

On December 27, 2019, David Tardie performed leak detection and again confirmed the small leak on Keep Avenue that runs through the center of the cul-de-sac.

On December 28, 2019, the Water Department began receiving calls about dirty water in the Asnebumskit neighborhood. Flushing in that neighborhood began January 8, 2020 and there have not been any more calls since the flushing.

On January 9, 2020, the Water Department began receiving equipment as part of the MIIA Grant that was awarded to the Water Department. Equipment included an 8x12' enclosed trailer, some signs, cones, face shields and gloves. The trailer will be set up for emergency water breaks and will be held in a central location which will reduce response time.

On January 9, 2020, (TT) spoke with Fred Wheeler to obtain a quote to replace the Water Department's van. The van is a 2009 model and has approximately 130,000 miles on it. (TT) says that in the past year, the Department has put over \$4,000 into the van and \$3,000 the year before. The van will need new tires, at the least, this coming year. (TT) states that the van was unusable for about three weeks in the past year.

On January 10, 2020, (TT) spoke with Tara Rondeau from the Paxton Municipal Light Department to schedule a time to discuss water billing going forward as this is the last year of the contract. (TT) and Tara will meet in February.

On January 13, 2020, the Water Department received payment from Safety Insurance in the amount of \$3,417.77 for the damage done to a fire hydrant on Marshall Street that was struck by a truck from Entwistle's Garage.

(TT) will begin working on the Annual Statistical Report and budget figures. (TT) suggests replacing the SCADA system ASAP. Additionally, the Birchwood Road water main project needs to be completed and will cost approximately \$40,000. (TT) states that there has been a major decrease in unaccounted for water since replacing the first half of the main. Due to the financial requirements that face the Department, (TT) suggests a rate increase.

### **FY20 Budget and Financials**

(TT) reports that the Water Department purchased approximately 100 million gallons of water in 2019.

The Board reviewed all FY20 financial data to date.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for February 20, 2020.

**Motion (DT) seconded (RJ) to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant

Minutes Approved on 5/27/2020 T.S.