



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

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Present: John Malone (JM), Commissioner
David Trulson (DT), Commissioner
Travis Thibault (TT), Water Superintendent
Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Rodney Jenkins (RJ), Commissioner
Carol Riches (CR), Town Administrator

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

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from January 16, 2020 were unable to be voted on as only one Commissioner from the January 16th meeting was present today. The Board will vote on said minutes at the next meeting.

Asnebumskit Tank Electric Service

The Paxton Municipal Light Department foreman is still working on obtaining a quote for materials to install the new electric service at the Asnebumskit water tank but estimates that the cost will be around \$1,000.

PMLD Billing Contract

The Paxton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) provided the Water Department with a proposed contract for three years of billing and offered to include a clause that would allow both PMLD and the Water Department to review and renegotiate the contract after more water meters are installed. (JM) requests that (TT) set up a meeting with (CR), (TT) and whichever Board members are available to further discuss the proposed contract.

FY21 Budget

(TT) reports that the City of Worcester will increase the water rate by 3% in the upcoming year. Although (TT) suggests a rate increase for Paxton customers, he reports that (CR) has requested no rate increases until all new water meters are installed.

(TT) will attempt to level fund the FY21 budget, but in doing so, will not be able to replace the aging Water Department van or update the SCADA system. (TT) is concerned that if a rate increase is not implemented, the Water Department will be unable to pay SUEZ for the Asnebumskit tank rehabilitation project from the Enterprise Fund in years 3-5 of the contract.

(TT) explained that the Water Operator is now part of a Union contract and will be due required pay increases as per that contract.

(TT) provided the Board with a copy of the capital improvement plan that was done for the town and advised that in the future the Water Department should be looking to purchase some of its own equipment.

Water Breaks

There were four water breaks the weekend of February 14 – 17th. There was one break on Spring Drive, one break on Crowningshield Drive and two on Pleasant Street that were the result of crews from Bartlett Consolidated driving a post through a water main during a guardrail repair. The Water Department will be seeking reimbursement from Bartlett Consolidated for damages.

Next meeting scheduled for March 19, 2020.

Motion (DT) seconded (JM) to adjourn meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

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