



## TOWN OF PAXTON

Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017

Time: 7:00pm

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

Attendees: Jack Malone, Commissioner; Rodney Jenkins, Commissioner; Dave Trulson, Commissioner; Mike Putnam, DPW & Water Superintendent ; Travis Thibault, Water Foreman; Carol Riches, Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

### Minutes

Motion (RJ) seconded (JM) to accept the meeting minutes of January 26, 2016. Unanimous, all in favor.

### Michael Putnam, DPW & Water Superintendent

- (MP) gave update on FY17 budget and noted that there were no changes.
- (MP) discussed FY18 budget and possible changes in the department. He suggested that Travis Thibault become the full-time Water Superintendent and we remove the DPW Superintendent from the budget. Travis would receive his current salary plus the additional salary that was paid to the DPW Superintendent.
- We would remove the 10% paid to DPW employees for their support to the Water department and add that back into the budget.

### FY 18 Budget Proposal - Travis Thibault, Water Foreman

- (TT) presented some scenarios for the proposed FY18 budget with regards to the changes that would take place if he was Superintendent.
- We would look to hire an additional employee to assist (TT). Ideally, we would seek a D1 operator or someone who could obtain their license within 6 months. The \$300 weekly stipend originally paid to (TT) would become available to the new employee if/ or when they are licensed.
- We would also add an additional \$12K to meter budget for new meter program.
- If DPW employees offer assistance to Water Dept. then they would be paid from OT line item.
- A second FY18 budget was also proposed by (TT). This budget would include adding another employee in the office to assist with billing. It would also raise the meter budget line from \$20K to \$78K for the implementation of a 4-year meter replacement program. This would include the

Water Dept. taking over the billing function from the Paxton Electric Light Dept. We would still need to have both billing systems in place for the duration of the meter upgrade.


#### **Water Meter Replacement Program**

- (TT) discussed new meters that we would like to purchase. It is a smart meter using cell phone signals rather than antennas. It would be more efficient than what we are currently using. It would measure in increments of hundredths of gallons versus ten gallon increments.
- Meters are failing at a steady rate so we need to start replacing them.
- (TT) will arrange a presentation of the new meters at the next meeting on March 9, 2017.
- There was general discussion about rate increases to fund the new meter system and budget. (TT) proposed some scenarios that include a combination of meter fee increases and rate increases. This discussion will be ongoing.

**At 8:20pm, Jack Malone motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Rodney Jenkins.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peloquin, DPW Admin. Assistant

Accepted:   
John Malone, Chair