



TOWN OF PAXTON

Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018

Time: 7:00pm

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

Attendees: Jack Malone, Commissioner; David Trulson, Commissioner; Rodney Jenkins, Commissioner; Travis Thibault, Water Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Minutes

- Motion (DT) seconded (JM) to accept the meeting minutes of January 18, 2018. Unanimous all in favor.

Water Meter Replacement Program/Billing System Updates

- There has been ongoing communication between Badger and Northern Data Systems and we are hoping that the billing software will be up and running in 6 weeks.
- 51 new meters have been installed, all of which were on the trouble list

Pump Station Electric Bill Findings

- PEL explained that there was an error with the demand billing on the pump station meter. A letter from PEL is attached. PEL has corrected our bills from September 2017 through December 2017 which resulted in a credit of \$7806.12 to our account.

Maple St. Tank Ladder Assist System

- Work has been completed at the Maple St. tank and all ladders now have a ladder assist system. The total cost was \$11,275 and was completed in conjunction with a \$5,000 grant that we received from MIIA.

Travis Thibault, Water Superintendent

- 2017 Annual Statistical Report (ASR) was completed and submitted to the DEP on 2/22/18. The unaccounted for water decreased 1.5% from 21.8% to 20.3%. The difference amounts to 3.7 million gallons less than 2016 in unaccounted for water.
- On 1/27/18, there was a water main break at 131 Marshall St. PWD repaired the leak and pulled a new service but there is still a leak on the homeowner's side. Homeowner was notified to have it repaired and will comply.
- The water van is still having issues and (TT) is planning to send it out for repairs.
- (TT) notes that our metal detector has stopped working and he will need to purchase a new one

FY18 Budget

- No issues to report

FY19 Preliminary Budget

- (TT) has submitted a request to the Capital Improvement Committee to purchase a new truck in FY19
- (TT) asked about wage increases for FY19. The board would like to stay consistent with the rest of the town and, at this point, is waiting to see what they decide.

Motion (DT) seconded (JM) to adjourn meeting at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peloquin, DPW Administrative Assistant

Accepted: 
John Malone, Chair



Town of Paxton
MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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Light Commission
John P. Crowley
John A. Ahern
Emerson W. Wheeler, III


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February 14, 2018

Paxton Municipal Light Department had been working with Northern Data Systems to install a new accounting software system and to convert prior customer data from its existing system into NDS's system. Starting at the end of August 2017, PMLD began creating test bills using our existing software to compare for accuracy against NDS's system test bills. Our system does not allow us to create "test bills" without generating actual data, that data then posts to the customers accounts. Once the test bill is created and complete, PMLD goes into the system to back out all the test data that had been used and posted from the customers' accounts.

The greatest challenge NDS had was with customers who have demand meters. PMLD had to repeatedly run test bills to verify whether adjustments made by NDS corrected the issue they were having with demand billing. Unbeknownst to us, simply backing out the totals for each of the tests bills did not fully correct demand accounts.

Demands are calculated in the system using an algorithm of 80% of the prior 11 months highest bill in kWhs. Since repeat test bills were run between the end of August and the beginning of September on demand customers, the kWhs accrued and did not zero out properly causing the Water Dept.'s Sept. bill to calculate the total based on that inflated kWh amount. This amount then carried over each consecutive month after and was part of the 11-month 80% algorithm, creating those high monthly demand bills for October, November, December and January.



Jason A. Lavallee
General Manager
Paxton Light Department

...brightening our customers' lives...