



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

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Attendees: John Malone (JM), Commissioner; Rodney Jenkins (RJ), Commissioner; Travis Thibault (TT), Water Superintendent; Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

Absent: David Trulson (DT), Commissioner; Carol Riches (CR), Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Funding Needed for Asnebumskit Tank Repairs

(TT) received the estimate from Suez to make all repairs at the Asnebumskit Tank that are required as per the DEP's Sanitary Survey. The total of the estimate is \$435,093. Suez suggests that the Town of Paxton Water Department enter into a 15-year contract with Suez which would enable the Department to spread out payments over time. During the first 5 years, the annual payment will be \$105,672. During years 6 through 12, the annual payments will be roughly \$20,000 - \$22,000, which will be mostly for maintenance of the tank. Throughout the 15-year contract, Suez will be responsible for maintenance, repairs, cleaning and inspection of the tank and predicts that the tank will last indefinitely if properly maintained.

(TT) and (CR) met with Scott Kelly of Suez today to discuss the proposal and (CR) agrees that this repair and maintenance approach is the best option at this time. If the Board agrees, (CR) will amend the language in Article 22 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to request that the town allow the Water Department to enter into a 15-year contract with Suez and transfer funds in the amount of \$105,672 from the Water Enterprise Fund to cover the first year's payment.

Motion (RJ) seconded (JM) to approve the proposal from Suez and amend the language in Article 22 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as needed. Unanimous, all in favor.

Article 16 – West Street Water Main Engineering

Initially, Article 16 was added to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to transfer funds from the Water Enterprise Account to begin engineering for a new water main on West Street. (TT) suggests that given the need for repairs to the Asnebumskit Tank, the Water Department pass over Article 16 this year. Motion (JM) seconded (RJ) to pass over Article 16 this year. Unanimous, all in favor.

2 Whitney Drive Plumbing Repair

When the Water Department replaced the meter setup at 2 Whitney Drive, the piping was accidentally tweaked. The customer was concerned and (TT) told the homeowner to submit a bill and the Department would reimburse him. The customer has submitted a bill for \$90.00. Motion (JM) seconded (RJ) to reimburse the customer \$90.00 by way of credit to his account.

Rules and Regulations Update

(TT) contacted the Massachusetts WaterWorks Association for information regarding Massachusetts General Laws pertaining to theft of water. (TT) was given the M.G.L. to reference and that language has been incorporated into a revised version of the Water Department's Rules and Regulations, a copy of which is available on the Department's website. Motion (JM) seconded (RJ) to accept the new language and amend the Rules and Regulations as presented.

Gap II Grant Completed

On April 25, 2019 (TT) submitted the final report and reimbursement request for the Gap II Grant, which allowed for upgrades at the pump station. On April 29, 2019 (TT) received confirmation that the DEP received the paperwork and would be sending reimbursement within the week.

Customer Fines and Accounts

On April 12, 2019 J.M. LaBouef paid the fine of \$574.45 associated with the theft of water at 771 Pleasant Street. On April 17, 2019 the Water Department went to the property to turn on the water and install the meter.

On April 12, 2019 (TT) spoke with the customer at 23 Monticello Drive who was satisfied with the determination of the Board in the amount of \$556.42 for the back charges she owed and due to the malfunction of her old water meter.

On February 1, 2019 the Water Department had an emergency call to 623 Pleasant Street, and a \$400 bill was issued to the customer. The invoice has remained unpaid and the property is now being sold. The Light Department added the \$400 invoice to the customer's final bill.

Birchwood Drive

On April 17, 2019 the Water Department dug up and repaired 40' of 6" main at 8 Birchwood Drive. After the repair, (TT) discovered another leak under the brook and states that the entire main on the street is in need of replacement. (TT) estimates that the cost to replace the entire main on Birchwood Drive will be approximately \$40,000. The Board agrees that it will be better to replace the entire main on the street rather than repair sections at a time. (TT) will continue to research ways to do the work, and will report back to the Board with cost estimates.

Pump Station

On April 23, 2019 (TT) contacted RE Erickson to obtain a quote to replace the chlorine analyzer at the pump station as required by the DEP. Additionally, a dichlorination system will need to be installed. (TT) estimates that the whole project will cost \$4,000-\$5,000 but is still awaiting quotes.

SCADA System

(TT) states that he is in the process of getting quotes to tie in the Maple Street tank to the SCADA system, which will need to happen before work can be done at the Asnebumskit tank. The Board approves going ahead with this work as soon as it can be done.

2018 Consumer Confidence Report

On April 23, 2019 the 2019 Consumer Confidence Report was finalized and posted to all required locations, as well as the department's website. The Report included information about grants as well as the Level One Assessment as a result of the total coliform positive samples in October. A message notifying customers of the availability of the Report will be put into May and June's customer bills by the Light Department.

Employees / D2 License

On April 23, 2019 David Tardie submitted the application for his full D2 license. (JM) states that during union negotiations, there can be no changes to an employee's pay rate.

Spaulding Woods

On April 25, 2019 the Water Department charged the main at Spaulding Woods and connected service to the one house that is built there. (TT) is in receipt of the bacteria reports for this project.

Holden Road Project

Amorello began work on Holden Road. (TT) states that the engineering has all drain mains at roughly the same depth as water services so some of the water services may need to be moved. On April 30, 2019 Amorello dug at 64 Holden Road and found the service to be leaking. Due to the need to keep the road open, Amorello will dig up the service and charge the Water Department for time and material. The Water Department will make the repair to the service.

FY19 Budget

The Board reviewed the water accounts, receipts and expenses to date.

(TT) states that if there is funding left at the end of the year, he would like to use it to bring the SCADA system online, get the chlorine analyzer at the pump station and get the emergency response plan updated.

No date set for next meeting.

Motion (DT) seconded (JM) to adjourn meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant

Accepted:


John Malone, Chair