



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

**Date: Thursday, August 8, 2019**

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

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

Attendees: John Malone, Commissioner; Rodney Jenkins, Commissioner; David Trulson, Commissioner; Travis Thibault, Water Superintendent; Carol Riches, Town Administrator; Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

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

**Acceptance of any Meeting Minutes**

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to accept the meeting minutes from June 13, 2019 and July 2, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor.

**Birchwood Road main replacement project**

The water main replacement project on Birchwood Road began on July 1, 2019. On July 2, 2019, there was a break to the 12" water main. After a full day of working on the break, there was a subsequent break at approximately 2:30 p.m. (TT) contacted E.M. Thibault Excavation to assist in repairing the main, which enabled repairs to be completed by midnight. During the break, the Maple Street tank was drained and the Asnebumskit Tank was reduced to about half. At 5:00 a.m. on July 3, 2019, the Water Department began refilling the tanks.

The Water Department continued to lay pipe for the project every working day through July 18, 2019, including laying main under the brook, which was 8' deep. There is approximately 50' of pipe left to be put in, but the project is temporarily suspended.

**402 and 404 Pleasant Street**

As part of the Birchwood Road water main project, the Water Department needed to tie the water service for 404 Pleasant Street into the service at 402 Pleasant Street. Additionally, the customer at 404 Pleasant Street allowed the Water Department to use his electricity to run a generator. (TT) requests that the Board waive the water bill for 404 Pleasant Street for the month of July 2019. The Board approves.

## **22 Cutler Road issue**

On July 8, 2019 (TT) was contacted by the customer at 22 Cutler Road who stated that he had damage in his finished basement that was the result of 1" of water from burst pipes. The customer claimed that the pipes burst because of a surge of pressure after the July 2, 2019 water main break and is requesting reimbursement. By the time (TT) inspected the property, the damage had been cleaned up. (TT) noted that there did not appear to be a pressure reducing valve in the home, and there is approximately 100 psi in that area. Generally, the plumbing code states that anything over 80 psi should have a pressure reducing valve. Additionally, the Water Department's Rules and Regulations state that the Water Department and town are not liable for damage due to water main breaks.

(CR) has contacted the town's insurance company, MIIA, and MIIA will contact the customer directly to see what the next steps may be. The Board will review MIIA's recommendations at the next Board Meeting.

## **Crestwood Drive water main break**

On August 4, 2019, there was a break of 3" cast iron water main on Crestwood Drive. (TT) was still out at that time.

## **19 Knollwood issue**

On August 5, 2019 (TT) was contacted by the customer at 19 Knollwood who stated that her 44-year-old water heater needed to be replaced as a result of the August 4, 2019 water main break on Crestwood Drive. The customer is requesting reimbursement. Motion (DT) seconded (RJ) to adhere to the Rules and Regulations which state that the Water Department is not liable for damage due to water main breaks and not issue any reimbursement. Unanimous, all in favor.

## **Workers compensation claim**

On July 18, 2019 (TT) sustained an injury to his right knee while working on the Birchwood Road water main project and a worker's compensation claim was initiated. (TT) was out of work beginning July 19, 2019 and returned to work (light duty) on August 5, 2019 with his doctor's permission. (TT) will remain on light duty until his next doctor's appointment in September.

The Department of Labor Standards contacted (TT) about the incident and will be setting up a meeting to review the work area and safety policies.

## **Suez contract for Asnebumskit Tank rehabilitation**

(TT) and (CR) have reviewed Suez's contract for the Asnebumskit Tank rehabilitation project. The Selectboard has approved the contract and the Water Board has been given a chance to review the document. Town Counsel is reviewing the contract presently.

### **Maple Street Tank – SCADA system**

The Water Department intended to tie the Maple Street tank into the SCADA system prior to starting the work on the Asnebumskit tank. However, the Water Department has recently been informed that the equipment on the Maple Street tank is not compatible with the equipment at the pump station. R.E. Erickson estimates that it will cost approximately \$25,000 to tie the Maple Street tank into the SCADA system. The Board requests that (TT) contact R.E. Erickson to negotiate price as R.E. Erickson was the contractor who installed the incompatible equipment.

### **Water Superintendent reports and updates**

Union negotiations are still ongoing.

On June 18, 2019, Amorello broke the 8” main on Holden Road.

On June 19, 2019, backflow testing was conducted by Toomey Water Services, Inc. The only device that failed was at the Paxton Fire Department, and has since been repaired. The device still needs to be re-tested.

On June 26, 2019, the water meter taken from 3 Colony was mailed out to be tested per the customer’s request. The meter company states that results are not available for approximately 8 weeks.

On June 28, 2019, R.E. Erickson replaced the chlorine analyzer at pump station. They also located an issue and repaired a wire at the Asnebumskit tank.

On August 2, 2019, Bob Brown updated the chlorine analyzer portion of the SCADA system.

### **FY19 budget information**

The Board reviewed the final FY19 budget information.

(TT) estimates that there was \$30,000 - \$40,000 in additional revenue as a result of installing new water meters.

### **FY20 budget**

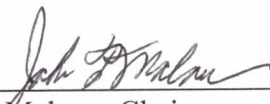
The Board reviewed the FY20 budgets to date. (TT) noted that 24% of the overtime budget had already been used.

**Next meeting tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2019.**

**Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to adjourn meeting at 8:03 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant

Accepted:   
John Malone, Chair