



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

**Date: Thursday, November 21, 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; David Trulson (DT), Commissioner; Travis Thibault (TT), Water Superintendent; Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Carol Riches (CR), Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

### **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to accept the meeting minutes from September 26, 2019.  
Unanimous, all in favor.

### **Birchwood Road Water Main Replacement**

The Birchwood Road water main replacement project was completed on October 9, 2019. The main was pressure tested. Two bacteria samples were sampled and were both found to be absent of bacteria on October 24, 2019.

TT provided the Board with a cost breakdown of the project, a copy of which is available at the Paxton Water Department. Prior to the project, TT estimated that the cost would be \$40,000. Total costs for the project came in at \$39,831.79, or \$117.15 per foot. TT says the Water Department spent twenty days working on the project and having to get under the brook made the project more difficult and expensive.

John Root, the water customer at 404 Pleasant Street, was credited four months' worth of water bills to compensate for him allowing the Water Department to use his power to run pumps during the project.

### **Asnebuskit Tank Rehabilitation Project**

SUEZ began work on the Asnebuskit water tank on September 30, 2019. Prior to SUEZ arriving, the tank was emptied to about 40%. As of November 15, 2019, the tank has been power washed, coated and all epoxy is done. SUEZ plans to begin painting this week and still needs to make roof repairs and finish painting. Project completion is estimated to be within a few weeks.

There were additional costs for the roof because it was worse than SUEZ originally anticipated. During their initial inspection, SUEZ could only see with a rover sub machine. Once they were

able to physically inspect the roof, they found a 4x4 section that was caving in. After negotiations and consulting with JM and CR, the Water Department agreed to pay an additional charge of \$7,580.00 to SUEZ to make repairs to the roof and not delay the project any further. Such payment will need to be made by the end of Fiscal 2020.

MA DEP approved the mixing system for the Asnebumskit tank. The approval letter is on file at the Paxton Water Department. The new mixing system needs a 20 amp electrical service. The existing panel at the tank is only a 15 amp service. TT has contacted the Paxton Municipal Light Department Foreman, who will take a look and advise as to what is needed. TT states that a new electric service may need to be put in.

The Water Department has purchased materials to install a hydrant at the Asnebumskit water tank, so that there is a way to drain the tank in the future, if needed.

While the Asnebumskit water tank has been offline, TT has been able to run the system remotely through a cell phone. The system has to be checked every hour. TT has been working 115-130 hours per week for last 6 weeks. David Tardie has come in a couple of nights a week, from 12am to 5am.

### **GIS Mapping Grant**

The Paxton Water Department was awarded a GIS mapping grant through MA DEP over a year ago. TT was recently contacted by Kristen Kelley from Tighe & Bond, who is doing the work. Tighe & Bond are taking the Water Department's blueprints and digitizing them to create a layer for the town's GIS mapping system. They will also provide a new paper map with hydrants, gate valves and sample locations (a DEP requirement). The project should be completed by end of year.

The Water Department's service drawings, ti-cards, gate valves, etc. are all digitized already and are able to be accessed electronically.

### **Water Superintendent Reports and Updates**

#### *Water Main Breaks*

On October 4, 2019, there was a break on the service for 18 West Street. Repairs were made on October 5, 2019.

On October 22, 2019, there was a break to the 8" water main on West Street at the intersection of Shanandoah. The main is 11' deep in this area and the repair took 12 hours, with an additional 5 hours for flushing.

On October 25, 2019, there was a break on the main on Marshall Street near Kettle Brook Golf Course. Large boulders were found to be sitting on the main.

On November 20, 2019, there was a break to the 8" main in front of 12 South Street. A broken valve was also found at the intersection of Marshall Street and South Street, which will need to be repaired.

Through leak detection, the Water Department has located another service leak on Keep Avenue, where the service pipe runs across the whole cul-de-sac. All utilities are underground in this area, at the same depth as the main. The Water Department will look to begin this project after the Asnebumskit tank is back online.

### *Additional Reports*

On October 26, 2019, a bearing went in the new motor that was just installed at the pump station. The vendor came out to fix the issue and the parts were covered under warranty. TT discussed the need for a new VFD (as well as other upgrades to the pump station) down the road and RJ said he would look into options for VFDs and report back, as he has knowledge in this area.

On October 26, 2019, all remote access to the pump station was lost for two days during which time the pumps had to be started and stopped manually. Bob Brown from Yield Management, Inc. was able to make the repair and restore connectivity.

On October 27, 2019, a tow truck from Entwistle's Garage in Leicester hit the fire hydrant in front of 71 Marshall Street. The Water Department was called on-scene to make emergency repairs. The Water Department sent Entwistle's an invoice in the amount of \$3,234.08 for damages and labor.

### *New Connections*

On November 12, 2019, the 2" fire suppression line at 2 Pine Street was turned on. The building should be occupied soon.

On November 12, 2019, a new water service was installed at 4 Olivia Knoll, where a new house is planned to be built.

### *Meters*

On November 14, 2019, the first "low temperature" alarm (36 degrees) registered on the Beacon meter site. TT was able to contact the homeowner and let them know about the alarm (at 5 Olivia Knoll). TT reminded the Board that the meters only send out signals once every 24 hours.

### **FY20 Budget**

The Board reviewed the FY20 budgets to date.

TT shared the most recent water usage breakdown, a copy of which is available at the Paxton Water Department. From June 2019 to July 2019, the unaccounted for water dropped by about half. September 2019 and October 2019 have had almost zero unaccounted for water. TT states that the major drop is due to the repair on Birchwood Drive.



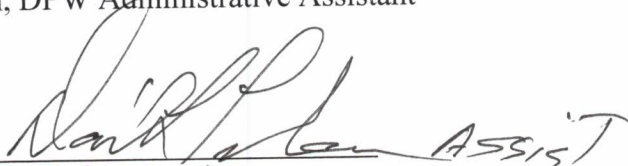
Next meeting scheduled for January 9, 2020, alternate date of January 16, 2020.

**Motion (DT) seconded (RJ) to adjourn meeting at 7:53 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant

Accepted:

  
David Trulson ASSIST