



Approved: 5/20/2021
(date)

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

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via ZOOM

Present: John Malone (JM), Chair (*joined at 7:18 p.m.*)
David Trulson (DT), Vice Chair
Rodney Jenkins (RJ), Clerk
Travis Thibault (TT), Director of Public Works
Carol Riches (CR), Town Administrator
Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. (TT) read the remote meeting preamble. (TT) noted that (JM) will be joining the meeting late.

Meeting Minutes

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2021 meeting.

Billings Rendered

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to approve the Water Billings Rendered for April and March 2021.

(TT) was disconnected at 7:07 p.m. and rejoined at 7:09 p.m.

2020 Annual Statistical Report

The 2020 ASR was completed and submitted on March 19, 2021. In 2020, the Water Department purchased 104,230,338 gallons of water and billed out for 81,706,071 gallons. The unaccounted water was about 19.6 million gallons, or 18.8%, which is down from 2019. 4,350,484 gallons were found through leak detection and 1,817,569 gallons were lost through water main breaks. Residential use was up from 61% in 2019 to 68% in 2020. The residential gallons per capita per day were up from 47 gallons in 2019 to 54 gallons in 2020.

(TT) states that the Water Department sold approximately nine million gallons of water more than the previous year and estimates that approximately four million gallons were due to the new water meters.

Meter Program Update

To date, 607 new Badger water meters have been installed. The Water Department has begun to book more appointments. (TT) estimates that it will take another year to year and a half to get all the new meters installed.

Sanitary Survey

On March 19, 2021 Kate Conoby of the DEP granted the Water Department extensions for the outstanding items from the Sanitary Survey. The deadline for the Risk and Resiliency Assessment is June 30, 2021; Tata & Howard is working on this. An extension was given for the updated map including sample locations. Tighe & Bond has provided a map, but did not include sample locations; (TT) will reach out to them to see if they can update the map.

7:18 p.m. (JM) joined the meeting.

FY21 Financials, Lien Update and Water Usage

The Board reviewed the FY21 financials to date.

In March, the Water Department received \$1,293.35 in lien payments; there is still \$8,407.91 in outstanding liens.

As of this point in the fiscal year as compared to the same time in previous years, the unaccounted for water is at 17.72%, which is the best year since FY2013.

Reports and Updates

Service Leaks

Through leak detection, a service leak at 50 Camp was discovered. The homeowner has since repaired the leak.

While installing a new meter at 24 Spring Drive, the Water Department discovered another service leak. The homeowner has since repaired the leak.

Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Worcester has released the necessary data for the Water Department to begin working on the Consumer Confidence Report. (TT) hopes to work on this over the next couple of weeks.

Reservoir

Over the Fall/Winter, there were issues with beavers at the reservoir. As a result, the Water Department was unable to lower the reservoir and the dock and a valve were damaged. Now that

the beaver issue has been resolved, the reservoir has been lowered and repairs are being made to the valve and dock.

Village Road Fire Hydrant

On March 17, 2021, under the supervision of the Water Department, the contractor moved the fire hydrant on Village Road so that it was no longer in the middle of a driveway.

Training

On March 25, 2021, David Tardie and Peter DeFlorio attended online training on centrifugal pumps.

Letter from Leicester re: Moose Hill Reservoir

The Water Board has received a letter from Leicester regarding the Moose Hill Reservoir. Leicester would like to get the reservoir approved and utilize it; they are wondering if Paxton wants to participate. (TT) believes that this may be a good idea in the long run, but in the short term it would be very expensive. A treatment plant would have to be built, which could cost \$20M or more. Additionally, water main would need to be run into Paxton, which is roughly \$1M for each mile needed. Leicester also mentioned that they may no longer be using the Paxton wells. (JM) would like more information about the wells, and believes a study on the wells was done some years ago and the Board should review that information. The Board will also review Leicester's letter and speak further about this at the next meeting.

Equipment Needed

(TT) states that the Water Department needs a compressor to mount to the truck, which would cost approximately \$3,000 - \$5,000. Additionally, a small crane set up or lift gate is needed, which would cost approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000. (JM) requested that (TT) provide quotes for the equipment so that the Board can approve the purchases.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2021.

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Unanimous, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant