



Approved: _____
(date)

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

Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Present: John Malone (JM), Chair
David Trulson (DT), Vice Chair
Rodney Jenkins (RJ), Clerk
Travis Thibault (TT), Director of Public Works
Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Motion (RJ) seconded (JM) to accept the meeting minutes from the July 1, 2021 meeting.
Unanimous, all in favor.

Approval of June and July 2021 Billings Rendered

The Board reviewed and signed the June and July 2021 Billings Rendered.

Meter Program Update

790 new water meters have been installed to date. (TT) reminded the Board that the Department is still behind its originally proposed completion date due to COVID-19, issues with the billing software at beginning of the program, etc.

FY21 Financials

\$58,159.73 (FY2021 budget surplus) will be put into the Water Enterprise Fund. (TT) informed the Board that beginning July 1, 2021, the Treasurer/Collector has combined the WEF with other town accounts. The Board asked Tiffany to obtain monthly statements of the funds/transactions in the WEF and provide them to the Board at each meeting.

Approve Update to Emergency Response Plan

The 2019 Sanitary Survey and new EPA regulations require that the Paxton Water Department update its Emergency Response Plan by December 31, 2021. Tata & Howard has provided a

quote of \$7,500.00 to update the ERP. Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to approve the quote of \$7,500.00 to have Tata & Howard update the ERP. Unanimous, all in favor.

Sanitary Survey Update

Besides the ERP, the only thing still outstanding from the 2019 Sanitary Survey is to update the sample map. Tata & Howard has provided a quote of \$500.00 to update the sample map. Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to approve the quote of \$500.00 to have Tata & Howard update the sample map. Unanimous, all in favor.

Discuss American Infrastructure Act

Paxton will be awarded \$1.4M under the American Rescue Act. (TT) stated that a committee has been formed to meet and discuss the allocation of the funds. (TT), who is a member of the committee, will suggest that a portion of the money be used to fund engineering for the West Street water main replacement project.

There is another proposed bill, called the American Infrastructure Act, that may potentially award additional money to communities. (TT) stated that there may be possible funding, but he believes that the state will be offering it through the SRF funding.

The DEP has a process for communities to apply for money, and Tata & Howard submitted an application today for the West Street water main replacement project on Paxton's behalf at no cost. The submission will make Paxton eligible for funding if it becomes available. A copy of the application and project narrative is available at the Paxton Water Department.

FY22 Financials

The Board reviewed FY2022 financials to date, as well as the water use breakdown. (TT) noted that no water main break or unmetered flushing has been added to the spreadsheet yet.

Reports and Updates

(TT) has ordered the pickup truck to replace the water van. The dealer says that there is a backlog, and it will be about 8-10 months before the truck is ready.

The Department has been painting fire hydrants throughout town.

A subcontractor working for MA DOT hit a fire hydrant on Route 122. (TT) was in contact with MA DOT, invoiced them for a replacement hydrant and MA DOT has already paid the invoice.

The Department has applied for a grant through MIIA for chainsaw safety equipment.

In September 2021 there will be lead and copper sampling as well as asbestos testing.

Since July 7, 2021 there have been low chlorine residuals coming in from the city. (TT) has been in touch with the City of Worcester about this and Worcester is going to try to do what they can.

TTHMs at Paxton Center School were above the allowed MCL in July 2021, but the calculation is based on a running annual average, not by month, so no action is required at this time.

On August 16, 2021 the City of Worcester had a break on the water main that feeds Paxton. A CodeRED notification was sent out as a precaution, but the Department did not receive any calls or complaints about dirty water.

(TT) shared feedback from a resident on Crowningshield who called to thank the Department for the professionalism of David Tardie and Peter DeFlorio during a recent leak audit at his house.

(JM) asked about the status of quotes for a shed for the Department's equipment; (TT) stated he is still looking into this.

(JM) asked if there are any additional tools or equipment that the Department needs; (TT) stated that the Department could use a vac truck, and he is looking to obtain a used one and will present a quote to the Board if he is able to find one at a good price.

(JM) asked about pump station upgrades; (TT) stated that he will be getting in touch with R.E. Erickson for an updated quote and then will provide same to Board.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for September 16, 2021.

Motion (JM) seconded (RJ) to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Unanimous, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant