



Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

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

**Date: Thursday, September 16, 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  
Carol Riches (CR), Town Administrator  
Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant

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

**Meeting Minutes**

Motion (RJ) seconded (JM) to accept the meeting minutes from the August 19, 2021 meeting.  
Unanimous, all in favor.

**Approval of August 2021 Billings Rendered**

The Board reviewed and signed the August 2021 Billings Rendered.

**Meter Program Update**

855 new Badger water meters have been installed to date. (TT) hopes that the program will be completed by summer of 2022, but the vendor that supplies the meters is experiencing supply issues because of the chip shortage.

There are 65 meters on the current trouble list. Of these, 6 are new Badger meters with issues reading; it may be necessary to relocate these radio devices.

**Update on Water Enterprise Fund Accounting**

(TT) met with the Treasurer/Collector and Town Accountant to discuss the Water Enterprise Fund, per the Board's request. (TT) states that the accounting for the Fund will be the same as it has always been; the funds are simply now combined with other town accounts.

Though the figures still need to be certified, there was a revenue surplus of \$99,538.54 in FY21. Additionally, \$58,159.73 was left in the budget in FY21. Combined, this will leave \$157,743.27 to be “put into” the Water Enterprise Fund at the end of FY21. Again, the figures still need to be certified.

Per the Town Accountant, at the close of FY20, the Fund was at \$258,248. Adding on approximately \$157,000 at the end of FY21 should bring the Fund to just over \$415,000. SUEZ will still need to be paid \$107,189 from the Fund in FY22, which should leave just over \$308,000 in the Fund. (JM) asked if some money could be used to start the engineering portion of West Street water main replacement. (TT) stated yes, but it will need to go to town meeting for approval, and there may be alternate/additional funding opportunities, as well.

### **Lead, Copper and Asbestos Sampling**

Lead and copper samples were required to be drawn in September 2021. The Department is still in the process of collecting all samples. Twenty residential samples and two school samples (i.e., Paxton Center School and Anna Maria College) are required.

An asbestos sample was also required to be drawn in the third quarter of 2021. There are no local labs that can process this sample, so it was sent to EMSL Analyticals, Inc. in New Jersey, per MassDEP’s suggestion. The sample was drawn and shipped to the lab today.

### **FY22 Financials**

The Board reviewed the FY22 financials to date.

### **Reports and Updates**

On August 20, 2021, (TT) signed the agreement with Tata & Howard to update the Department’s Emergency Response Plan.

On September 10, 2021, during a water meter change at a residence, a globe valve broke. The Department will need to subcontract a plumber to make the repair.

### **Breaks and Connections**

On August 23, 2021, there was a break to the 2” iron pipe on Rolling Ridge Lane. The repair was made, but (TT) notes that the pipe is in rough shape.

On August 30, 2021, the new water service line was installed by the contractor building the new house at 23 Wilde Wood Drive.

### Fire Hydrants

On September 4, 2021, a fire hydrant on Route 122 was hit by a motorist. HydraTech will be replacing the hydrant and handling all insurance claim information.

There is a second hydrant on Route 122 that needs to be repaired; HydraTech has also been contracted to make this repair as it is in a dangerous, high-traffic area.

A third fire hydrant on Route 122 was hit by a contractor who was roadside mowing for MA DOT. MA DOT has paid for a new hydrant, which has been ordered but has not yet been delivered.

There is also a hydrant on Asnebumskit Road that will need to be repaired.

The Department continues to work on hydrant painting throughout town.

### Pump Station Upgrades

(TT) has tried to reach out to R.E. Erickson about making the much-needed repairs at the pump station, but they have not returned his calls. The Town of Rutland uses the firm Weston & Sampson to manage their pump station and their representative highly recommended Timothy McKeon of Wilson Controls who has done work for Rutland recently. On September 14, 2021, (TT) contacted McKeon and he will come out to the Paxton pump station on September 17, 2021 to view the work and provide a quote. The Board agreed that given the lack of responsiveness of vendors and the urgent need of the repairs, if (TT) is able to get McKeon to do the work promptly, he should proceed ASAP.

### American Rescue Plan Act Committee

On September 7, 2021, (TT) attended a meeting to discuss Paxton's use of the funds awarded by the American Rescue Plan Act. This was a preliminary meeting with each member just starting to talk about ideas. The next meeting will be held on September 28, 2021. The Board asked if it would be possible to get funding for the engineering portion of the West St. main replacement project through the Act; (TT) will work on getting solid quotes for the work so that he can present it at the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

(JM) asked if any equipment is needed at this time. (TT) stated no, not urgently. Both the Highway and Water Departments would benefit greatly from a vac truck or vac trailer and (TT) has contacted some vendors to see if a used one turns up that the Department could acquire at a reasonable cost.

(JM) asked if there is any further information about a shed to store the Department's equipment. (TT) said that all equipment except for the water van is currently stored inside, although not ideally. (TT) will continue to explore options, including possible rehabilitation plans for the DPW facility.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2021.

Motion (JM) seconded (DT) to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Unanimous, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant