



Approved: _____
(date)

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

Date: Thursday, October 21, 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 7:05 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to accept the meeting minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting. Unanimous, all in favor.

Approval of September 2021 Billings Rendered

The Board reviewed and signed the September 2021 Billings Rendered.

Pump Station Upgrades

OEM Services, LLC provided a quote of \$4,416 to replace the PLCs at the pump station. There will be an additional cost of approximately \$5,700 to switch to a new SCADA system and tie the Maple Street tank in. The total combined cost of all upgrades should be roughly \$10,120.

The cost of annual maintenance of the new system will be roughly \$1,000 per year. Presently, the Department is paying \$3,375 in yearly maintenance fees.

(TT) is looking into a grant opportunity to replace the VFDs. An energy audit will need to be performed to apply for the grant. The grant itself is an 80/20 grant, and the Department should expect to pay for 20% of any costs.

American Rescue Plan Act – West Street water main

The Town's ARPA Committee agreed to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that engineering for the West Street water main replacement project be paid for with funds from ARPA. Tata &

Howard has provided a quote of \$129,500 to complete all engineering and have the project shovel-ready. The total project cost is estimated at \$3.1 million. The goal is to complete all engineering and be shovel-ready so that the Department can apply for a MassWorks grant to complete the project.

Meter Program Update

There are 879 new Badger meters installed to date. The Department had to pause the meter program to perform Fall hydrant flushing.

Lead, Copper and Asbestos Sampling

In September 2021 the Department performed the required lead, copper and asbestos water sampling. All residential samples were below the 90th percentile. Paxton Center School was also within allowable limits.

At Anna Maria College, there was one sample that was more than double the allowable copper. MA DEP was contacted, and AMC was told to take that tap out of service or place a sign saying “hand-washing only” at that tap. The allowable limit is 1.3ppm; their sample was 2.7ppm. The tap was flushed and re-sampled and found to be below the allowable limit and MA DEP was notified properly of such.

There were no issues with asbestos sampling.

Equipment Requests

(TT) requests that the Department purchase a 14” battery-powered cut-off saw for \$2,500 and a 9” battery-powered cut-off saw for \$920, stating that these pieces of equipment will be safer for employees as they will eliminate the presence of fuel fumes while in the trench. Motion (JM) seconded (DT) to purchase both saws. Unanimous, all in favor.

FY22 Financials

The Board reviewed the FY22 financials to date.

Reports and Updates

The Board reviewed the Water Board’s submission for the FY2021 annual town report.

A fire hydrant on Route 122 near Eagle Lane was hit by a motor vehicle. (TT) states that there are no operable valves there to be able to shut off the water to make repairs. In order to repair the hydrant, the main must be shut off. An insertion valve will be needed. HydraTech has provided a quote of \$6,835 to install the insertion valve, with the Water Department doing the digging. HydraTech will attempt to submit the claim through insurance. Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to move ahead with HydraTech installing the insertion valve and attempting to submit the claim through insurance. Unanimous, all in favor.

On September 21, 2021, the City of Worcester sent a notice of a potential leak for a meter that services two houses on the Paxton/Worcester line. Typically, the Department pays \$25-\$50 per quarter for this meter; the most recent bill was \$255.45 for the quarter. (TT) spoke with the City of Worcester and needs to get Worcester Water employees out to help trace the line and see what the issue is.

On September 23, 2021, a contractor broke the water service line while doing a septic installation at 15 Nipmuc Drive. The contractor installed a new water service line.

On September 29, 2021, the Water Department began Fall hydrant flushing.

On October 8, 2021, SUEZ performed a rover inspection on the Maple Street water tank.

On October 21, 2021, (TT) spoke with Arthur Resca of MA DOT about permitting required to do the insertion valve and hydrant repair on Route 122 near Eagle Lane.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for December 2021.

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Unanimous, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant