



Approved: 9/8/22
(date)

TOWN OF PAXTON
Water Commissioners
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2022

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 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Motion (RJ) seconded (JM) to accept the regular meeting minutes from the June 21, 2022 meeting. Unanimous, all in favor.

Approval of June 2022 Billings Rendered

The Board reviewed and signed the June 2022 Billings Rendered.

Update on West Street Water Main Engineering

The Board reviewed the Progress Report from Tata & Howard for the West Street Water Main engineering, a copy of which is available at the Water Department office. Steve Daunais from Tata & Howard believes that their report should be complete by the end of August.

Anna Maria College Flow Test

AMC is looking to construct more buildings, including an administrative building and campus center, as well as a baseball field with locker rooms and stadium seating. They will be adding water mains, services, hydrants, and fire suppression lines. AMC has requested a flow test to determine what size mains, fire suppression, etc. they need. The Board agrees to the flow test.

Financials and Consumption Data

The Board reviewed the FY22 financials to date. The Department expended less than what was budgeted, but revenue was approximately \$1,047,354 for FY22, which is \$22,401 less than the FY22 budget of \$1,069,755.

At the end of FY22, the unaccounted for water was at approximately 31%. The Department will continue to do leak detection. MassRural Water is scheduled to come back and correlate on mains where there have been issues. (TT) has contacted the City of Worcester to calibrate the master meter at the pump station, which has not been done in many years and is supposed to be done every 2-3 years. The Board requests that if the City of Worcester will not come out and calibrate the meter, the Department should hire a company to come out and do it.

Director Updates and Reports

On June 23, 2022, the Department assisted Conte Excavating with repairing a service leak on the homeowner's side at 9 Orchard Drive. (TT) estimates that approximately 25,000 – 30,000 gallons of water were being lost per day there prior to the repair.

On June 30, 2022, the Department tapped the water main and installed a new 1" service across the roadway and set a new curb stop for a new house at 32 South Street. The contractor will be installing the service from the curb stop to the house this week.

On July 12, 2022, there was a 6" water main break on the cart road at the end of Pine Street. (TT) was away and the Water and Highway employees made the repairs. The area has a lot of ledge and the PSI is high. The repair took approximately 11 hours.

On July 14, 2022, (TT) submitted all paperwork for the GAP III Energy Grant. If awarded, it is a 90/10 cost split, with the Highway and Water Departments sharing the 10%. The total project cost that was submitted was \$61,684 which would include upgrading the VFDs and all lighting at the pump station. At the DPW Facility, updates would include interior and exterior lighting, weatherizing garage doors, installing thermostats and updating heating units.

There are presently 1,060 new Badger water meters installed throughout town, with approximately 300 still needing to be installed. (TT) stated that the Department is having trouble getting into several houses. Motion (JM) seconded (RJ) to terminate water service to those who won't let the Department in to change meters. Unanimous, all in favor.

(TT) stated that he believes that the new pickup truck is in and that they are waiting for the upfitter to have time to work on it. (TT) will check with the dealer and get an ETA on delivery.

Worcester County is presently in a moderate drought. When the City of Worcester declares a drought, they will send the Department a letter to put a water ban in place. Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to put information on social media about conserving water. Unanimous, all in favor.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for August 30, 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Sidhom, Administrative Assistant