



Approved: _____
(date)

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

Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Time: 7:30 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 Services Manager

Additional: Heather Munroe (HM), Town Administrator
Deidre Malone, Paxton Resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to accept the regular meeting minutes from the October 4, 2023 meeting. Unanimous, all in favor.

Presentation from Town Administrator re: budget and water rates / FY24 Budget review and discussion / Discussion of water rates

(HM) presented a memo to the Board (a copy of which is available at the Water Department Office) that outlined the fact that the FY24 Water Budget is short almost \$88,000 due to increases in Compensation (e.g., overtime for Sunday water main breaks), Purchased Services and Supplies (e.g., due to the rising costs of materials and outside vendors). (HM) recommends that the shortfall be corrected with a combination of raising water rates and using retained earnings. (HM) laid out several options for correcting the shortfall in the aforementioned memo, including raising water rates.

(Tiffany Sidhom left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.)

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to increase the monthly meter rate from \$21.45 to \$27.00, effective January 1, 2024. Unanimous, all in favor.

Articles for Special Town Meeting – November 20, 2023

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to see if the Town will approve the payment of a prior year appropriation of an FY23 bill from the City of Worcester Water Department in the amount of \$21,246.64 from the FY24 Water Retained Earnings; or act in any way thereon. Unanimous, all in favor.

Motion (RJ) seconded (DT) to see if the Town will amend Article 4 at ATM on June 5, 2023 to vote to raise and appropriate through Water Department receipts, water fees, or water charges, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise, as follows:

Compensation	\$ 250,325
Expenses	\$ 799,198
Debt	\$ 84,970
Total	\$1,134,493

and that \$1,134,493 is raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts	\$1,087,316
FY24 Water Retained Earnings	\$ 47,177

Or act anyway thereon.

Unanimous, all in favor.

Director Updates and Reports

Passed over.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2023.

Motion (JM) seconded (RJ) to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis Thibault, Director of Public Works