

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. A roll call of attendees are as follows: Chairman Bruce Osgood, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Colby Horne, Treasurer Henry Chalmers, Trustee Stephen Hall, and the Superintendent, Keith Pooler, and his Administrative Assistant, Tammy Morse.

Bruce Osgood, the Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to accept the Minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of March 8, 2021, with one minor change on the first page.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to accept the Minutes of the special board meeting of March 26, 2021.

The Board discussed the next board meeting date and agreed upon Monday, May 10, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office.

To temporarily perform the duties of the Secretary/Clerk of the Board of Trustees, Stephen Hall nominated Treasurer Henry Chalmers.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved, to elect Treasurer Henry Chalmers as Secretary/Clerk Pro Tem of the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees reviewed the letter from Coastal Mountain Land Trust and the Belfast Bay Watershed asking about the future of the Upper Reservoir and to consider permanently conserving the property. The Board chose not to proceed with any action until the final decision of Nordic Aquafarms' possible acquisition of the Lower Dam.

Keith Pooler, Superintendent, presented his report to the Board of Trustees.

The installation of the temporary water main at the Goose River Bridge Project will run across the temporary bridge within the next 7 – 10 days. When Searsport Avenue gets hooked into the temporary main, it will be for approximately two months.

The City of Belfast is planning a sewer main replacement on Mayo Street this summer. Over the years, five existing residences on private wells have requested the water main to be extended about 500-feet towards the water so they can hook into the water system. The estimates provided to these residents have been thousands of dollars because of the cost to extend the water main. Sharing the costs with the City will reduce these estimates tremendously.

2021 will be a busy construction season for the District. New apartment complexes are planned for 75 Wight Street and 80 Wight Street, adding two 6-inch sprinkler services, one 4-inch domestic, and one 2-inch domestic service. Preliminary plans for 115 Congress Street present a 6-inch domestic water service to serve five buildings and an 8-inch sprinkler service for fire protection. This morning, Keith stated he received plans for a housing development off Congress Street for a 2-inch water service to serve 4-5 residences. Recently, there were new service estimates provided for Congress Street, beside 92 Pearl Street, and 151 Searsport Avenue.

Don Hahn's shoulder surgery was a success, and he is healing very well. His doctor has not noted as to when he may return to work. Although we miss his expertise as the equipment operator, Dustin and Hayden have become more familiar with the excavator.

The Smart Road Well communications with the rest of the system are operating at a limited capacity. The companies that build the modems are still severely behind due to Covid-19. Hopefully, the parts arrive soon so that we may resume normal operations.

The Purchase and Sale Agreement expired between the District and the City of Belfast for the Crocker Road property. The District's attorney, Sarah Reinhart of Eaton Peabody, is discussing with the City of Belfast a new agreement to include phosphorus credits.

To keep in line with other water utilities, Keith recommended a change to the Employee Handbook to increase the wage from a .25 per hour for each class license upgrade an employee attains, i.e. Class I, II, III, and IV Distribution and Treatment to .50 cents per hour for each class license upgrade an employee earns.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to increase the wage from .25 per hour to .50 per hour for each license upgrade an employee attains, i.e. Class I, II, III, and IV Distribution and Treatment retroactive January 1, 2021.

Keith familiarized the Board that the time needed to attain a Class I and II Distribution and Class I and II Treatment needs to increase from a 2-year requirement from hire date to a 3-year requirement from the hire date. The Maine Drinking Water Program rules state that an operator must have one year of experience before becoming eligible to independently operate as a Class I Water Operator. Keith noted that a Class II Water Operator is necessary for our system; therefore, it will take up to three years to attain the licenses required to operate our system. The Board recommended presenting this as an addition to the Employee Handbook at next month's board meeting.

Keith informed the Board that Nick Henry of Horton, McFarland, and Veysey will present the District's Draft Audit Report at next month's board meeting.

As of April 1st, the 2020 Water Quality Report is available on the District's website; hard copies are available at the office, mailed upon request.

The 2020 Top Ten Largest Users list was distributed to the Board of Trustees. The top five users of the revenue gallons are as follows: #1 Penobscot McCrum used 10%, #2 Northport Village Corporation 6.75%, #3 Athenahealth 3%, #4 Ducktrap River Fish Farm 2.92%, and #5 Waldo County General Hospital 2.67%.

Tammy Morse asked the Board to consider PayPal as another form of online payment through Invoice Cloud. The fees will remain the same as the current credit/debit card convenience fee. Having Paypal as a payment option is another method to encourage our customers to pay online.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne, and unanimously approved to add the PayPal payment option offered through Invoice Cloud.

Last month the crew:

- Removed a tree from the fence at Crocker Road Tank.
- Sandblasted the liftgate on the crew truck.
- Installed new doors at the backhoe garage.
- Performed maintenance at Back Searsport Road Booster Station.
- Finished the Annual Safety Training.
- Put the winter equipment into storage.
- Mowed the facilities grounds.
- Repaired another leak near 50 Robbins Road.

On Sunday, March 21st, many dirty water complaints were coming in from the middle of town, plus the tank levels were dropping at Lincolnville Avenue Booster Station. The cause was a leak on the sprinkler line at the old Embee Cleaners building on Church Street that either froze or failed in the cellar. In 1983, this sprinkler line was capped in the cellar, but there was a 3/4-inch water service tapped off the sprinkler line underneath the cellar floor, so the sprinkler service was still on to supply this service.

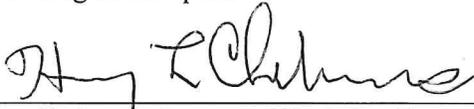
Upcoming this month, the crew will:

- Install the temporary 6-inch water main at the Goose River Bridge Project.
- Flush hydrants and water mains.
- Repair lawns and hot top from winter service and main breaks.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved, to enter into Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)A at 2:12 p.m.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to adjourn the Executive Session discussing a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)A at 2:23 p.m.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m.



Henry Chalmers, Secretary/Clerk Pro Tem

