

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. The following Trustees were in attendance: Stephen Hall, Kenneth Colby Horne, Bruce Osgood, Henry Chalmers, Eileen Dubinett, and the Superintendent, Keith Pooler.

Stephen Hall, the Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The Trustees welcomed Rebecca Reynolds of RCAP Solutions to present her closing presentation of the Belfast Water District's compliance with its CUPSS asset management program. She reviewed the spreadsheets and graphs generated in the software comparing the last five years of financials as well as the assets we have in the system. Ms. Reynolds stressed the importance of remaining current with any software changes which will support our efforts in applying for future funding and the effects on long-term plans. The Board thanked Ms. Reynolds for her assistance and training over the past three years.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry, Chalmers seconded by Eileen Dubinett and unanimously approved, to accept the Minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of March 11, 2019.

The Board discussed the date of the next board meeting and agreed upon, Monday, May 13, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

The Superintendent, Keith Pooler, updated the Board on the following:

A public hearing will be held on April 10th in Augusta on the proposed groundwater bills: LD 197, LD 413, LD 1121, LD 1358, and LD 1474, which could affect the Belfast Water District as well as other water utilities in a negative way. These bills are before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Many utilities are attending this hearing in opposition as well as our water utility "watchdogs" Maine Rural Water Association and Maine Water Utilities Association.

Keith mentioned that he spoke to the City Manager, Joseph Slocum, about the phosphorus issue on the Crocker Road. There is no new information to date to report to the Board.

Keith said he had a pleasant discussion with Joanne Moesswilde and 20 others about the future of the Upper Reservoir at the Belfast Library on March 25th. He informed the group that at the request of the Maine Emergency Management Association (MEMA), the District is to keep the water level down. The District's Board of Trustees concurred not to invest any money in the dams since they are no longer the District's water source. The group asked about the consequences of removing the dam. Keith replied that if the Upper Dam were removed, the result would be a narrow stream in the middle of the woods. Keith explained to the group that the sale price of the Upper Dam is less with the transfer of the property into conservation; otherwise, it would be sold at fair market value.

On March 19th, the 2019 Wacker Neuson EW100 excavator was delivered. Central Equipment Company allowed a trade-in value of \$52,000 for our 2014 John Deere 310SK backhoe. The final cost for the new excavator with all the extras was \$113,204.

A formal public meeting to discuss the Goose River Bridge Project on Searsport Avenue with the MaineDOT will be held on April 25th at the City Council Chambers at 6 p.m. Keith will review the draft plans prepared by Dirigo Engineering with the attendees. Fire protection is a significant concern while isolated. The Interconnect from Searsport can feed Belfast, but not enough for fire protection. We may have to install a temporary water main around the project. A 10-inch temporary water main would be very expensive. Keith recommended that we apply for a low-interest loan in the fall for next spring's project. The project is expected to start May 1, 2020, and will continue throughout the summer.

The District's 2018 MPUC Annual report was filed on March 29, 2019. Our 2018 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is posted on our website, and hard copies are available at our office. One-third of our customers were notified on their April 1st bill with a reference directly to the report on our website as required by the Maine

Drinking Water Program, or request a hard copy by calling our office. The remaining 2/3 of our customers will be notified on their 5/1/19 bills and 6/1/19 bills. Copies of the CCR were delivered to Belfast City Hall, the Belfast Free Library, and Hannaford Supermarket.

The District's accountant, Nick Henry of Horton, McFarland, and Veysey will present the 2018 Financial Statement at our May 13th board meeting.

Keith summarized the 2018 MPUC report starting with the company profile page which reviews the activities for 2018 and the District's plans for 2019. There are 39 miles of water mains in the system. We pumped 211,700,900 gallons of water throughout the year. Our total revenue water was 171,174,000 gallons, and estimated total non-revenue water was 22,776,000 gallons. The percentage of unaccounted for non-revenue water is 8% which is very good; under 10% is the recommended industry standard. Our 2018 operating revenues were \$1.4 million.

On April 5th, the District received a draft Letter of Intent from Nordic Aquafarms Inc. (NAF) to purchase the Upper Reservoir property. The Board reviewed the letter and concluded that the Belfast Water District will not incur any expenses (no legal, no fees, no closing costs) because we are willing to sell the Upper Reservoir property for \$120,000 which is 50% of the assessed value. The District's legal counsel, Sarah Reinhardt of Eaton Peabody, is working on the language in the Letter of Intent. The Board discussed authorizing Keith to confer with Ms. Reinhardt in all aspects of the letter and to sign the agreement with the understanding that the District will net \$120,000 for the sale of the Upper Reservoir property. Also, the Board made it clear that the District will not request from the Maine Public Utilities Commission a waiver of the 8-month notice requirement per MRS Title 35-A, Chapter 61 §6109.

VOTED: On a motion made by Bruce Osgood and seconded by Eileen Dubinett and unanimously approved, to authorize Keith Pooler, Superintendent, to confer with the District's Legal Counsel, Sarah Reinhardt of Eaton Peabody, in all aspects of the Upper Reservoir Conservation Project Letter of Intent and to sign the agreement with the understanding that the Belfast Water District will receive \$120,000 net for the sale of the Upper Reservoir property and will not request from the Maine Public Utilities Commission a waiver of the 8-month notice requirement per MRS Title 35-A, Chapter 61 §6109.

Three inquiries for water service taps for the following locations may be on spring schedule: 4 Blacks Landing, Footbridge Road, and the corner of Pearl Street and Church Street. Shipmasters Condos off Searsport Avenue behind Perry's Nut House has resurfaced. The contractors are aware that no pressure tests were done when the water line was installed, and there is more work to do before activating those services.

Last month the crew changed out meters, refurbished the trench box trailer, and trained to operate the new excavator. They will continue with meter change outs until the road posting is removed. They will patch areas of main breaks and service leaks we had over the winter. The house at 86 Smart Road will be torn down and disposed of and recycle what we can nearby. Keith stated he had requested estimates from contractors for the disposal of the debris.

The Board expressed that they would like a spring tour of the District facilities to see the improvements made in 2018, possibly when the June board meeting adjourns.

VOTED: On a motion made by Bruce Osgood and seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m.


Eileen Dubinett, Secretary