

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met on Monday, August 13, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. The following Trustees were in attendance: Stephen Hall, Bruce Osgood, Henry Chalmers, Eileen Dubinett, Kenneth Colby Horne, and the Superintendent, Keith Pooler.

Stephen Hall, the Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and then welcomed the District's engineer, Tim Sawtelle of Dirigo Engineering. As approved at last month's board meeting to update the Talbot Well Preliminary Plan, Tim presented concepts related to installing a pump in the Talbot Well and constructing a pump station, clearwell, or treatment facility to serve all of the District's wells. Tim suggested applying for a Maine Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan for Spring 2020; the deadline is September 27, 2019. The Board asked Tim to provide us with preliminary figures at our September board meeting. Keith mentioned that Searsport Water District has a clearwell and it was suggested to try to schedule a tour with them in October.

**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 July 8, 2019.

The Board discussed the date of the next board meeting and agreed upon, Monday, September 9, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

The Superintendent, Keith Pooler, presented his report to the Board of Trustees. The District received an inquiry from a concerned Belfast resident asking if the District tests for microplastics. At this time, we are not required to test for microplastics. Keith then stated he would respond to the inquiry after he contacts the Maine Drinking Water Program.

Keith investigated more properties for the District's new facilities and discussed them with the Board of Trustees. One parcel is at the corner of Crocker Road and Belmont Avenue, but due to the setbacks from the stream and no sewer connection, it may not work out. Another parcel is at 26 Airport Road with an existing building for garage, a water service, and a leach field. On Congress Street, Harvey Knight has a property for sale but no sewer connection available. The Trustees mentioned Merriam Road having two parcels for sale.

Keith updated the Board that the public forum held at the Hutchinson Center was "pro-Nordic" to inform those interested of the economic benefits that Nordic Aquafarms will bring to the community. Keith reviewed the details in the agreements between the Belfast Water District, Nordic Aquafarms and the City of Belfast explaining the dollar equivalent of the gallons agreed to purchase and how it will enable improvements to our infrastructure. Keith expressed to the attendees that the Belfast Water District's Board of Trustees set stipulations before agreeing to sell the property here at the Little River. The walking trail will remain, Nordic Aquafarms will purchase a minimum amount of water from the District for a set period, and the selling price will be fair market value. With the City's help, we feel that we can move our facilities and not spend our ratepayer's money. The agreement with Nordic to purchase a minimum of 100 million gallons of water per year will generate annual revenue of about \$270,000, based on the District's current rate schedule. If they require the maximum of 262 million gallons of water per year, the revenue generated based on the current rate schedule is about \$750,000. The residents of Belfast will benefit for tax purposes because Nordic will pay property taxes, whereas the District is a nonprofit entity and does not pay property taxes.

Keith reported that:

- The District received a \$974 dividend check from Maine Municipal Association (MMA) as a result of its good risk management practices, favorable loss experience, and loss prevention programs.

- MMA is offering Accident Insurance for Trustees through the Hartford. This insurance will cover trustees when they are participating in official business for the Belfast Water District.
- MMA Safety Grant deadline for the fall is September 15, 2019, so we decided to apply for a Gas Detector to measure air quality before entering into a tank or a trench. In May, we received approval for a Safety Grant for a Flexible Cable Ladder Safety System for the Back Searsport Road tank. The ladder will be ordered through Utility Service Company for installation this fall.

The Board asked if it is mandatory that the crew must wear high visibility shirts or vests when working on the side of the road. Keith stated that, currently, it is at their discretion dependent upon what they are doing.

Keith mentioned to the Trustees that our Vortexx pressure washer is getting old and asked permission to upgrade and purchase a new electric-powered hot water pressure washer at a cost of up to \$3,000.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Bruce Osgood and seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved, to authorize Keith Pooler, Superintendent, to purchase an electric-powered hot water pressure washer at a cost up to \$3,000.

This past month the crew:

- finished the groundwork for grass cover at 86 Smart Road
- cleared the Talbot Well land and made ready for surveying by Dirigo Engineering
- trimmed and painted hydrants
- renewed the ¾" service line at 21 Allyn Street
- replaced hydrant # 161 across from Pooler's Garage on Swan Lake Avenue
- flushed and tested the new 8-inch water service main to the new Public Works Facility on Crocker Road and set a temporary meter on the fire hydrant for contractor
- activated two water services at the Shipmasters Condos on Shipmasters Cove Road
- graded, seeded, and hayed Back Searsport Road tank property
- read meters within 7 hours when it used to take 40 hours with 4 crew members
- inspected the service hookup at the new Belfast Soup Kitchen on Belmont Avenue

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Henry Chalmers seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at 2:49 p.m.



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Eileen Dubinett, Secretary