

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met on Monday, February 11, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. The following Trustees were in attendance: Stephen Hall, Kenneth Colby Horne, Henry Chalmers, Eileen Dubinett, and the Superintendent, Keith Pooler. Absent from the meeting was Trustee, Bruce Osgood. Also in attendance was the Belfast Water District's legal counsel, Andrew Hamilton and Sarah Reinhardt of Eaton Peabody.

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

Request to go into Executive Session to meet with the District's legal counsel, Andrew Hamilton and Sarah Reinhardt of Eaton Peabody, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405 (6) E.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved, to enter into Executive Session to meet with the District's legal counsel, Andrew Hamilton and Sarah Reinhardt of Eaton Peabody, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405 (6) E at 1:01 p.m.

VOTED: On a motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved, to adjourn from the Executive Session for legal counsel pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405 (6) E at 2:07 p.m.

Resume the regularly scheduled board meeting.

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 January 14, 2019.

The Board discussed the date of the next board meeting and agreed upon Monday, March 11, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

The Superintendent, Keith Pooler, reported on the following:

The new engineered plan of the Crocker Road land that the City of Belfast is transferring to the District was updated to include a 60-foot vegetation buffer as required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The new plan with the 60-foot buffer was provided to Dirigo Engineering to revise the location of the buildings on the lot. Keith reviewed the revision options with the Board, and they concurred that the driveway entrance should be separate so as not to share access with the heavy equipment; specifically one direction to the office and the other direction to the garage. Keith stated he would gather quotes from engineers for the permitting process needed to build.

On Wednesday, February 6th, Keith informed the Board that he walked the property here at Little River with Erik Heim and Nordic Aquafarms investors. Keith answered their questions, and they were quite impressed and encouraged. In today's Bangor Daily Newspaper, Nordic Aquafarms intends to open a similar aquaculture facility in California.

Over the years, the need for a hydraulic hammer to break frost and ledge would have severely cut down on time that it takes to get water services restored, especially when the frost is three feet deep. During a new service installation or repair, we may encounter ledge or rocks. Last week, we spent two days breaking frost to fix a leak on the water lines serving Old Searsport Avenue. Keith stated he asked for a quote from Central Maine Equipment to add a hydraulic hammer on the new excavator which is \$15,785 installed. Keith mentioned to the Board that we can cut costs elsewhere by not installing a backup generator at the Crocker Road tank site saving \$4,700. Since Central Maine Power renewed the lines in that area, we have had no problems. Crocker Road tank can be set up with a manual generator if needed.

VOTED: On a motion made by Eileen, Dubinett, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to order the hydraulic hammer attachment with the new Wacker Neuson excavator.

Keith mentioned to Kenneth Colby Horne that he is up for reappointment this July. Colby said he would like to continue as a Trustee and will gladly submit a letter along with his application to the City of Belfast.

Eileen Dubinett, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, stated that she conducted a review of the District's bonds on January 14, 2019. She reported that according to the Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Policy, she reviewed the files for the eight existing loans. Last year there were nine bonds; however, on October 4, 2018, the 1988B bond was paid in full. The original applications, the minutes approving the action, and the supporting documents are in place and up-to-date.

Keith presented the Searsport/Belfast Interconnect agreement to the Trustees for their signatures. As approved at last month's meeting, the review period is now every five years. If an emergency is less than a day, no billing is necessary. The last time we billed Searsport Water District was when they reclaimed their well. Searsport Avenue is a dead end for us, and we have utilized the interconnect many times especially having the hotels on the east side.

Keith reported on the highlights since the last board meeting: repaired a 1" service leak at 31 Durham Street, repaired a ¾" service leak at 22 Bridge Street, rebuilt chemical lines at the wells, and checked the hydrants to make sure they are operational.

On Sunday, February 10th, we discontinued (cut and capped) an old 3/4" water service beside 156 High Street because it was leaking. We found that the service was still active at the main, but off at the curb stop. According to history, this service used to be the old filling station owned by Wade & Hurd.

On January 25th, our customer, John Gray, at 42 Old Searsport Avenue reported he had very low water pressure along with other customers on Old Searsport Avenue. Before Old Searsport Avenue's complaint, Keith stated that he had observed the increase in pumping, so he listened on hydrants in the system including Searsport Avenue, but did not hear anything (cement pipe does not transmit noise very well). Before digging to find the leak, we had to get a highway road opening permit. Typically, the Maine Department of Transportation does not want to dig in the wintertime, but we received the permit with stipulations. The thought was that Old Searsport Avenue was served by "one" line across Searsport Avenue. On February 5th when we started digging to repair the line, we encountered two - 1" copper water lines one over the other. Both were leaking under the 12" sewer main which is 9 feet deep. It was a difficult repair, 86 hours to find and fix, and we need to pave in the spring. We lost an estimate of 12 million gallons of water. The sewer main was installed in 1995, and appears there was a grade conflict, so over time it pushed down on our water lines.

The crew will continue the winter maintenance at wells, and make arrangements to demolish the house at 86 Smart Road. They will also replace 130 water meters that are 15 years or older. We can extract a list of all meters in the system from the Northern Data System software. This list is sorted by size, year, and model so we can identify the meters that need to be replaced.

Keith is happy to report to the Board that Dustin Howes took the Class I Distribution test last Thursday and passed. Per the employee handbook, a 25 cent per hour increase is earned for each test passed: Class I Distribution, Class I Treatment, Class II Distribution, and Class II Treatment. Tomorrow, Dustin will take the test for his Class I Treatment.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m.


Eileen Dubinett, Secretary