

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met at the Little River Station office on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

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

A roll call of attendees was as follows: Chairman Bruce Osgood, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Colby Horne, Secretary Jill Goodwin, Trustee Stephen Hall, Superintendent Keith Pooler, and his Administrative Assistant, Tammy Morse.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne, and unanimously approved 4-0, to accept the minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of December 20, 2021.

The Board discussed the next board meeting date and agreed upon Monday, February 7, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office.

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Henry Chalmers, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. All in attendance expressed that Henry was pleasant to work with and added humor to our meetings. To recognize Henry for his 17-years of dedicated service on the Belfast Water District Board of Trustees, all in attendance concurred to express a sentiment of appreciation. Bruce Osgood asked for a motion to accept Henry Chalmers' resignation.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved 4-0, to regretfully accept the resignation of Henry Chalmers, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for the Belfast Water District.

With our Board Treasurer's resignation, Jill Goodwin nominated Stephen Hall as the new Treasurer.

VOTED: On a motion made by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved 4-0, to elect Stephen J. Hall as the new Treasurer of the Board of Trustees.

The Board authorized the change of the check signer signature plate to bear the names of the Chairman, Bruce O. Osgood, and the Treasurer, Stephen J. Hall.

A brief discussion took place, mentioning a few potential candidates to fill the vacancy on the Board. A Committee Application must be submitted to the City Clerk at Belfast City Hall if interested.

Keith Pooler presented his report to the Board of Trustees.

Keith informed the Board that the District's Emergency Response Plan formed by Tom's Water Solutions (TWS) was certified on December 15, 2021. This certification meets Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements under America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). Keith stated that he provided details about the infrastructure and thanked Tammy for her hard work gathering information for TSW. Keith expressed special thanks to Tom's Water Solutions for their expertise in delivering an excellent plan to the District that will be beneficial if needed and serve as a guide during transitions. Every five years, the District must certify to the EPA that these plans are up to date.

In 2021, the District was fortunate that there were only seven leaks. Then to end the year, on New Year's Eve, we had a relatively substantial and extremely stubborn leak on the Ocean Street water main built before 1915. The water loss was 100,000-gallons. Ocean Street was without water while the crew spent 9 hours

that evening to get our customers' water back on. Bruce Osgood, a resident on Ocean Street, stated he was impressed with our crew and how they handled the obstacles positively despite dealing with this challenging repair. Keith stressed that owning the necessary equipment to promptly get these types of tedious jobs done is essential. Keith thanked the Board for understanding the importance of owning our equipment which guarantees availability.

The MDOT Goose River Bridge Project on Searsport Avenue was the only significant project completed in 2021 due to another year of 'wait and see' with Nordic Aquafarms. The District was required to install temporary water main around the river crossing, remove the old 10-inch AC water main, and install 997-feet of new 12-inch ductile iron water main after the new box culvert was installed in the river. This project added two new hydrants to the system.

Other additions to the water system were: a new public hydrant near 248 Congress Street, eleven new domestic water services, and two new sprinkler services.

This year, the crew renewed seven galvanized water services. An upcoming lead and copper rule will require all galvanized services in the system to be replaced, requiring research of customer records that were installed between 1940-1950. Throughout the years, as a standard practice, the crew replaced galvanized services whenever encountered.

In 2021, minor improvements were made at the wells, roof replacements at Smart Road Station, Lincolnville Avenue Booster Station, and the Lincolnville Avenue garage. Due to the pump failing, the Smart Road Station has a new 75hp motor, and both wells have spare motors for backup.

As the Board requested last month, Keith presented the schedule for a possible surcharge of up to 3% to repay the MDOT Goose River Project MDWP SRF loan. There are seven steps to the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) Chapter 675, of which three of the seven are complete. Tammy and the District's accountant, Nick Henry, completed a System Infrastructure Assessment then filed with the MPUC. The surcharge will require a Board vote once the MDOT Goose River Project final costs are received, calculate the surcharge, file with the MPUC, and notify our customers. The process could take up to 90-days.

Tammy and Suzette are preparing for the annual audit with the District's accountant, Nick Henry of Horton, McFarland, Veysey, scheduled for February 10, 2022. Tentatively, our accountant will present the draft audit report to the Board in April.

This past month the crew:

- finished the year-end inventory count
- vacuumed curb boxes and gate boxes
- checked fire hydrants to make sure operational
- performed entire facility inspections as outlined in our Risk Management Plan
- cleaned and painted at Smart Road
- repaired Ocean Street water main

To no avail, the crew spent a great deal of time trying to open the 15-inch hurricane pipe at the Upper Dam. A camera may be necessary to find out what the issue may be. Unfortunately, this is a work in progress.

Upcoming this month, the crew will:

- recheck fire hydrants
- rebuild and clean at the wells
- replace 50 old meters in the system

VOTED: On a motion made by Jill Goodwin seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved 4-0, to enter into Executive Session for a Real Estate Matter pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6)C at 1:55 p.m.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall seconded by Jill Goodwin and unanimously approved 4-0, to adjourn Executive Session for a Real Estate Matter pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6)C at 2:13 p.m.

No further discussion.

VOTED: On a motion made by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved 4-0, to adjourn the meeting at 2:14 p.m.



Jill Goodwin, Secretary/Clerk

