

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met on Monday, January 27, 2025, at the 41 Wight Street office.

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

**Roll Call:** The attendees present for the roll call were Chairman Bruce Osgood, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Colby Horne, Treasurer Stephen Hall, Secretary Jill Goodwin, Trustee Chad Otis, Superintendent Frank Short, and Administrator Tammy Morse.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Chad Otis and unanimously approved 5-0, to accept the minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of January 6, 2025.

**Next Meeting Date:** The Board discussed and agreed on the next meeting date of Monday, March 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the Belfast Water District office located at 41 Wight Street in Belfast, Maine.

Chairman Bruce Osgood welcomed our guest, Kenn Ortmann, Manager of the Belfast Airport, to proceed with his presentation about the Belfast Reservoir Phosphorus Issue and how it affects future hangar construction at the Belfast Airport.

The Chairman asked for a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss a real estate matter.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Chad Otis and unanimously approved 5-0, to enter into an executive session to discuss a real estate matter per 1 MRS 405 (6)C at 1:44 p.m.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved 5-0, to adjourn the executive session to discuss a real estate matter per 1 MRS 405 (6)C at 1:55 p.m.

Superintendent Frank Short presented his report to the Board of Trustees.

**Leak Detection:** Andy Gilson from the Maine Rural Water Association identified leaks on Washington Street and Waldo Avenue. The leak on Waldo Avenue was due to a crack around the main line, fixed with a repair clamp. The leak on Washington Street was the service line to MacLeod's Furniture at 186 High Street, which was repaired by replacing the copper line with 6 feet of 1-inch CTS pipe. These leaks were responsible for approximately 140,000 gallons of water loss daily: 12,960,000 for Waldo Avenue and 7,862,400 for 186 High Street.

**Crocker Road Tank Pax Mixer:** The Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) was the problem with the pax mixer at the Crocker Road Tank, and so we purchased a new VFD from Pax Water Technologies costing less than \$600. Davey Small, Arc Electric, will install the VFD.

**Searsport Avenue Main Replacement Project:** Dirigo Engineering will have our Searsport Avenue Main Replacement Project ready for bid this coming month. There is still some surveying to do. Once this project is ready for bid, we can move forward.

**Jackson Pit Transmission Main Project:** Frank met with attorney Lee Woodward, resulting in Mr. Woodward now working on the easements for our Jackson Pit Transmission Main Project. When the easements are ready, Frank will approach the property owners and get their consent to establish the new right of ways.

**Back Searsport Road Tank:** In 2022, Underwater Solutions inspected the 500,000-gallon tank on Back Searsport Road and recommended repairs within one year of the inspection. Dirigo Engineering is currently working to obtain quotes for painting and repairing the tank, although he indicated that we could postpone the project for another year. At present, \$309,766 has been allocated for tank projects, which will not be sufficient to cover the costs if we decide to proceed with the project in 2025.

**Sale of Water:** Jeff Day, the Superintendent of the Lincoln Water District, has offered to share his experience with the process of selling water to Poland Springs. Many water utilities sell water to Poland Springs with minimal overhead costs. The following utilities are credited for their contributions: Hollis, Fryeburg, Pierce Pond Township, Poland, Dallas Plantation, Kingfield, Denmark, Lincoln, and Rumford.

**Equipment For Sale:** The Belfast Water District owns two loader attachments that are not used, a snow scoop and a broom. It was agreed to put them up for sale.

**New Water Service Inquiry:** RSU 71 has expressed interest in purchasing the old MBNA maintenance building located off Route 3, which is currently owned by Penobscot Community Health. Additionally, they are looking to buy the property on Route 3 across from Perry's Furniture to construct a Consolidated School. This project would require either an extension of the main service or the installation of a new service within the old MBNA complex.

This past month, the crew:

- Fixed Leaks
- Winterized and removed snow from fire hydrants
- Turned on the seasonal blow-offs
- Finished the inventory count.

For the upcoming month, the crew will:

- Continue clearing snow from hydrants as necessary and perform hydrant maintenance.
- Perform annual maintenance at the wells.

Frank revised the Capital Improvements for 2025, totaling \$170,900:

- Water main improvements: \$70,000
- Subsurface detention pond to improve parking at 41 Wight Street: \$35,000
- Upgrade meter reading equipment: \$30,000
- Pumping equipment and VFDs for Back Searsport Road Booster Station: \$15,000
- Fire hydrants: \$10,000
- New office equipment: \$5,000
- Purchase a new sander for the District's plow truck: \$5,900

Frank informed the Board of Trustees that he intended to include an additional merit raise of 50 cents for Tammy, on top of his wage proposal presented on January 6, 2025, in recognition of her support over the past two years, which had made his transition to Superintendent much smoother. Frank requested the Board's approval for this wage adjustment. The Chairman then asked for a motion.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Chad Otis, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved 5-0, to grant a merit raise of an additional 50 cents per hour for Tammy Morse, as suggested by Superintendent Frank Short.

Trustee Jill Goodwin, along with all the other Trustees, would like to thank Tammy for organizing Don Hahn's retirement party. Her thoughtfulness and efforts made his farewell a great success. Don Hahn will be missed, and everyone in attendance wishes him a happy retirement!

Tammy informed the Board that the 2-year Certificate of Deposit (CD) will mature on February 19, 2025, and it has earned \$7,000 in interest over the past two years. She also contacted Camden National Bank to inquire about new rates before the automatic transfer takes effect. Additionally, the self-audit for the Maine Municipal Association Workers' Compensation has been completed and submitted.

Chairman Bruce Osgood informed the Trustees that Patrick Lyons resigned from Eaton Peabody to change his law firm affiliation. Patrick assisted Andy Hamilton of Eaton Peabody with matters relating to Nordic Aquafarms. Due to this change, the District received a form request requiring the Chairman's signature so the Belfast Water District's current matters and files, including original documents, would remain with Eaton Peabody. In 2017, the Belfast Water District hired Eaton Peabody when Nordic Aquafarms expressed interest in purchasing the Little River Property. The Board of Trustees agreed that Eaton Peabody should continue representing the Belfast Water District as its legal counsel for current matters.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Chad Otis and unanimously approved 5-0, to adjourn the meeting at 2:29 p.m.



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Jill B. Goodwin, Secretary/Clerk

