

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met on Monday, January 8, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., at the Little River Station office. The following Trustees were in attendance: Stephen Hall, Kenneth Colby Horne, Henry Chalmers, Bruce Osgood, Eileen Dubinett, and the Superintendent, Keith Pooler.

The Chairman, Stephen Hall, called the meeting to order.

Request to go into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6) C.

VOTED: On a motion made by Bruce Osgood, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to enter into Executive Session at 1:02 p.m. to discuss a real estate matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)C.

VOTED: On a motion made by Bruce Osgood, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved, to adjourn from Executive Session at 1:22 p.m. about a real estate matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)C.

Return to 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 December 11, 2017, board meeting and the Minutes of the December 21, 2017, special board meeting.

The Board discussed the date of the next board meeting and agreed upon Monday, February 12, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.

Keith Pooler presented his Superintendent's report to the Board of Trustees on the following:

Our new crew member, Dustin Howes, has been with us for two weeks and has proven that he is not afraid of working in harsh weather as encountered during last Thursday's blizzard. Dustin is pleasant to work with, and he has expressed that he is happy to be with the Belfast Water District.

Keith provided a map to the Trustees of the Smart Road Well location with the District's properties highlighted to show the protection we have in the wellhead area. The land the District purchased from Allen Holmes and Richard Holmes last month adds to that protection. Another property of interest, known as the old Calkins Farm, at the intersection of Blake Road and Curtis Road. This place would be ideal for a water treatment plant as it is among all three of the District's well sites on the high ground uphill from the Goose River.

The wells are pumping a little extra water due to some customers letting their water run to avoid freeze-ups. We have turned on three blow-offs at locations in the City where it is known that extreme cold will cause freeze-ups if we do not keep the water moving. The extreme cold has caused problems for some of our customers. The customer service at 126 Church Street had an emergency turn off because the building was not heated and the meter froze and broke. Another customer had a broken pipe and water was running into the cellar drain. If the crew is reading meters, the radio read program enables us to decide if a service is using more water than normal. At that time, we notify the customer that they may have an issue and meet with them if requested.

Quirk Ford informed the District that the new 2018 Ram truck scheduled delivery date is between January 10th and January 16th.

The crew has removed snow from the hydrants, and to emphasize to the Board, the new loader has made a tremendous difference in the time that it takes to do this task by half.

The old Little River Apparel building, now owned by Ducktrap River of Maine, caught fire on 12/28/17. Keith extended his appreciation to the Board for allowing the District's crew to be available to the fire department because, without the extra help, they would have possibly lost the building.

On Thursday, January 4, 2018, during the extreme blizzard, our customer who lives in California, called for two emergency turn-offs because the inside pipes froze; one at 57 High Street and the other at 82 Church Street. The amount of time it took to turn off these services was a total of 16 hours of labor. A plow hit and broke one water shutoff, and the other water shutoff broke six feet underground. Keith mentioned to the Board that even though it is not the customer's responsibility when the outside shutoff breaks, customers should take the initiative to call before December 15th to turn off their water service knowing their home is not occupied and/or heated for the Maine winter months. If the turn offs occurred before December 15th, the repairs could be done in an hour's time. The District's fee during business hours for winter turn offs is \$55.00 from December 15th - March 31st. Keith expressed to the Board the need to increase the winter rate due to the extra time and equipment required to turn off a service in the winter. Our year-round customers are paying for those customers that do not call until it's too late. The charge must be reasonable for all of our customers, yet be an incentive to contact the District sooner if the owner's water service will be turned off for the winter. Keith requested permission to go ahead with the steps to edit our Terms and Conditions to increase the winter turn off/on rate. After brief discussion, the Board concurred that the District should proceed with the steps to edit our Terms and Conditions to increase the winter turn off/on fee.

VOTED: On a motion made by Bruce Osgood, seconded by Eileen Dubinett and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 p.m.



Eileen Dubinett, Secretary