

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met on Monday, July 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. The following Trustees were in attendance Stephen Hall, Kenneth Colby Horne, Bruce Osgood, Henry Chalmers, Eileen Dubinett, and Superintendent Keith Pooler and his Administrative Assistant, Tammy Morse.

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

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 June 8, 2020.

VOTED: On a motion made by Bruce Osgood, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to accept the Minutes of the special board meeting of June 25, 2020.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Bruce Osgood and unanimously approved, to accept the Minutes of the special board meeting of June 29, 2020.

The Board discussed the date of the next board meeting and agreed upon Monday, August 10, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Keith Pooler presented his Superintendent's report to the Board of Trustees.

Eileen Dubinett was sworn-in as a Trustee for the Belfast Water District on June 24, 2020, for another 5-year term. All in attendance expressed a special thank you to Eileen and are pleased that she is serving another term.

Our long-time employee of 42 years, Harold Dyer, is retiring at the end of August. Keith expressed to the Trustees about having an open house retirement luncheon on Friday, August 28th, from 11:30 - 3:30, here at the office, so colleagues, family, and friends can stop by to wish him a happy retirement. On Sunday, August 30th, at 2 p.m., a retirement dinner for Harold will be held at Youngs Lobster Pound. Harold's family, the Belfast Water District Trustees, Employees, Retirees, and their spouses will receive invitations mid-August. The Board was pleased with this plan!

The District is advertising for a Water Operator to replace Harold Dyer. We are using several forms of advertisement.

The 'Legal Notices of Determination' were published in the Republican Journal on July 2, 2020, for our "Projects" at the Talbot Well and Route 1 Goose River Bridge. These notices are a requirement of the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund process to exempt our proposed projects from the formal environmental review requirements. Interested persons have 15 days from this published notice to submit comments relative to this decision.

The District received \$965.62 as part of the Maine Municipal Association Spring Safety Grant Program for a safety ladder system at the Back Searsport Road tank and spill kits for the wells. The total cost of the safety equipment was \$1,447.10. The Safety Grant Program accepts applications twice a year; the Fall Safety Grant application is due by September 15th.

Keith reported to the Trustees that the District's Repurchase Sweep Account interest rate of 1.25% has decreased to .05% due to the coronavirus crisis. Camden National Bank provided options to increase this menial rate.

VOTED: On a motion made by Eileen Dubinett, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to convert the Repurchase Sweep Account to the Insured Cash Sweep Account offered by Camden National Bank, and commit to a 1-year fixed rate of .30%.

Our full-time Water Operator, Donald Hahn, has expressed by letter that he wishes to start collecting his Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS) pension. Don wants to remain a full-time employee for the Belfast Water District and keep his seniority and benefits as he has no intention of retiring soon. The District will save a percentage on Don's earnings, 10.1% in 2020 and we keep a great employee. When an employee elects to collect from their MPERS pension and continues to work for the District, the rule under the MPERS Participating Local District's

Consolidated Plan requires a cost to be paid on the earnings of the 'Retire Return to Work' (RRTW). The cost through 6/30/21 is 5% of the RRTW earnings. The Board concurred that if a Belfast Water District employee elects to start collecting their MPERS pension, no approval is necessary from the Board because the employee is exercising their right. The employee only needs to notify the Board of the intended date they wish to start collecting their pension.

As COVID-19 continues with uncertainty, the office is not open to the public. There have been no complaints from customers about using the mail slot, calling the office to make a payment, or ask questions. The office staff is continuing to alternate; one person in the office and one working from home; they are accomplishing their daily work and more. Our revenues continue to be stable.

The State of Maine is currently in drought conditions; therefore, the Maine Public Utilities Commission asks water utilities about their water supply status. The Belfast Water District's pumping record is about the same as last year.

Maine Municipal Association is offering a Safety Incentive Program that allows a discount on our workers' compensation premium. If we meet the safety criteria listed by the deadline of September 1st in Tier 1, we receive a 5% discount, Tier 2 -7.5%, and Tier 3 -10%. The discount will take effect on January 1st. The Board of Trustees signatures are required on the Resolve Form to participate in this program.

Keith stated that he is attending a pre-construction meeting with the Maine Department of Transportation on the status of the projected start date for the Goose River Bridge Culvert Replacement on Searsport Avenue. They plan to install the temporary road this year. There is a concern about how this temporary road will affect our water main. In preparation for the District's portion of the Route 1 Goose River Bridge Project, our crew installed a blowoff to provide water to our customers during the project. Before the start of construction, we will send notices to customers in this area, informing them of the shutdowns to install valves and the new section of the water main.

This past month the crew has repaired gate boxes and curb boxes, painted hydrants, a lot of vacuum excavating work, and cleaned up the walk-trail.

On Wednesday, July 8th, the Searsport Water District had a two-person crew and needed our help to fix a 10-inch water main break. Then at the same time, another 6-inch water main break. To make this situation even more challenging, our crew had to deal with torrential rain while repairing the mains from 1 p.m. to almost midnight. Kudos to our crew for their resilience and willingness to help our neighboring utility.

Upcoming this month the crew will:

- Prepare for shutdowns for the Goose River Bridge Project
- Start the Charles Street from Waldo Avenue Main Extension with the City of Belfast Sewer Main Project
- Continue to paint hydrants
- Continue to repair/replace gate boxes and curb boxes

The Belfast Water District signed the Second Amendment to the Options and Purchase Agreement and the Evaluation Agreement with Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. and the City of Belfast to extend the term to October 30, 2020.

VOTED: On a motion made by Bruce Osgood, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 p.m.



Eileen Dubinett, Secretary



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State of Maine
County of Waldo, SS
Belfast, Maine

I, Eileen Dubinett, do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State as long as I shall continue a citizen thereof. So help me God.

I do swear that I will perform all the duties incumbent upon me as a/an

**Member of the Water District Trustees, to serve a term due to expire
July 1, 2025,**

for the City of Belfast, Maine according to the Constitution and laws of the State of Maine. So help me God.

Eileen Dubinett

Signature

STATE OF MAINE
COUNTY OF WALDO, SS

6-24-20

Date

I, Michelle D MacKay, hereby certify that on this day, Eileen Dubinett appeared before me and took the foregoing oath.

Michelle D. MacKay

Michelle D MacKay, Deputy City Clerk

Date appointed: June 16, 2020

