

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met on Monday, June 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office.

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

A roll call of attendees are as follows: Chairman Bruce Osgood, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Colby Horne, Treasurer Henry Chalmers, Trustee Stephen Hall, and the Superintendent, Keith Pooler, and his Administrative Assistant, Tammy Morse.

Nick Henry of Horton, McFarland, and Veysey described to the Board via conference call the difference between a surcharge and a rate increase. As with a rate increase, if we choose to implement a surcharge effective January 2022, we must file with the Maine Public Utilities Commission and notify our customers. Nick stated he would forward the schedule for filings.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved, to accept the Minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of May 10, 2021.

The Board discussed the next board meeting date and agreed upon Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office.

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

The Goose River Bridge Project temporary water main was built by our crew and EJ Prescott. Over the Memorial Day weekend, this temporary main was pressure tested, disinfected, and placed online. It will be in use for approximately 2-months until the MDOT new box culvert, and our new 12-inch water main is installed.

In conjunction with the City of Belfast Sewer Main Project on Mayo Street, the District would like to extend the water main 620-feet to the water. Working with the City sewer project will cut expenses. For the water main extension, the District received an estimate from Olver Associates at the cost of approximately \$190,000. If our crew and hired contractors were to do the water main extension, the cost could decrease to \$125,000. Also included in the project will be the five residential services in that area. All five residents have inquired about connecting into our water system because their wells have poor quality water. It appears unlikely this project will take place this year. Keith recommended continuing negotiations with Olver Associates, and the Board concurred.

Keith said he traveled to Worcester, Massachusetts, to inspect the Ditch Witch Vacuum Excavator that JESCO had an in-stock with all the options we wanted for \$48,000, a savings of \$1,900. JESCO will deliver the excavator next week and train for 2-3 hours. Searsport Water District is interested in purchasing our 2009 vacuum excavator.

As reported to the Board in the past few months, the water from Jackson Pit Well has caused issues due to sediment, the well was last cleaned in 2004. Keith informed the Board that he received a quote from DL Maher for the redevelopment of Jackson Pit Well for \$19,442. The process is about 5-days long to pull the pump and clean the well.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to contract DL Maher to redevelop the Jackson Pit Well at the cost of \$19,442.

Keith was pleased to inform the Board that Stephen Hall and Jill Goodwin have submitted Committee Applications to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Keith recommended roof replacements for the Smart Road Pump Station, the Lincolnville Avenue Booster Station, and the excavator garage on Lincolnville Avenue. The District received an estimate from Hutchins and Son Masonry LLC for \$14,200 and from Thorough Builders for \$14,900.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to accept the bid from Hutchins and Son Masonry, LLC for \$14,200 to replace the roofs at Smart Road Pump Station, the Lincolnville Avenue Booster Station, and the excavator garage on Lincolnville Avenue.

Keith reported to the Board that the District received the funds in May from the DWSRF for the first pay request for expenses incurred to date for the Goose River Bridge Project and the Talbot Well Project.

Keith stated that he applied for the Spring Safety Grant through Maine Municipal Association (MMA) for two rechargeable portable lights for scene safety. The estimate submitted for the two lights was \$2,599.90, of which MMA will reimburse the District two-thirds of the estimated cost.

Keith said that the Maine PERS PLD Employer Consolidated Plan Rate would increase from 10.1% to 10.3%. The Employee rates will decrease by .30%.

Keith reported to the Board of a large leak on Searsport Avenue that has been losing water for 8 – 10 weeks at 160 gallons per minute, approximately 17 million gallons of water. Keith said he and the crew have been checking culverts, streams, and listening on hydrants to find this leak in the early a.m. hours for a week. The leak was found because the Wastewater Treatment Plant called us about a considerable amount of water running into a pump station. The crew did a great job promptly repairing this leak!

Upcoming this month, the crew will:

- Continue with the Goose River Bridge Project
- Cut 2 – 3 new water service taps
- Replace two hydrants
- Assist with the Jackson Pit Well redevelopment

Request to enter into executive session to discuss a real estate matter.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to enter into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter under 1 M.R.S. 405(6) C at 2:10 p.m.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to adjourn the Executive Session discussing a real estate matter under 1 M.R.S. 405(6) C at 2:15 p.m. and return to the regularly scheduled board meeting.

No further discussion.

Request to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved, to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter under 1 M.R.S. 405(6) A at 2:15 p.m.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to adjourn the Executive Session discussing a personnel matter under 1 M.R.S. 405(6) A at 2:43 p.m. and return to the regularly scheduled board meeting.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved, to vote on the wage proposal presented by the Superintendent to the Board of Trustees for all of the Belfast Water District employees retroactive to January 1, 2021.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Kenneth Colby Horne, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, for the Superintendent, Keith Pooler, to notify the applicants for the Superintendent's position, that the Board has made their decision.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Chalmers', written over a horizontal line.

Henry Chalmers, Secretary/Clerk Pro Tem

