

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met on Monday, March 2, 2026, 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, Secretary Jill Goodwin, Trustee Stephen Hall, Superintendent Frank Short, and Administrator Tammy Morse. Absent from the meeting were Vice-Chairman Kenneth Colby Horne and Treasurer Chad Otis.

Chairman Bruce Osgood requested that the member of the public introduce himself before proceeding. Gerald Brand of Belfast wanted to speak to the Board of Trustees about energy issues in our community to help strengthen, make more dependable, and make more affordable, our local power grid, while also addressing climate concerns.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Jill Goodwin, and unanimously approved 3-0, to accept the minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of February 2, 2026.

**Next Meeting Date:** The Board discussed and agreed on the next meeting date, scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Belfast Water District office, located at 41 Wight Street in Belfast, Maine.

Frank Short presented his Superintendent's report as follows:

**Little River Reservoir Dams:** The Belfast Water District will meet on Monday, March 16th, at 11:00 a.m. with Coastal Mountain Land Trust (CMLT), Down East Salmon Federation (DSF), Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN), and the City of Belfast to discuss the possibility of DSF taking over responsibility for both dams and CMLT purchasing the land around the Upper Reservoir Dam. The City of Belfast has set up a conference call for March 10th at 11:30 a.m. with the Belfast Water District and its attorney, Andrew Hamilton of Katahdin Law LLC.

**Water Meters:** As part of our 2026 Capital Improvement Plan, 110 meters (5/8" x 3/4") and 12 larger meters were ordered, totaling \$60,784. All but four 3-inch meters have been delivered, and the crew will begin installing them as early as this week. Upon inspection of the larger meters to be replaced, the largest, a 4-inch compound meter installed at the Penobscot Community Health Center in 1997, was found to be installed incorrectly, possibly allowing water to go unmetered.

**Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping:** Frank took the edited maps to Dirigo Engineering in Fairfield for revision and reviewed the updates with their engineer, Aaron Dyer. The crew asked about using digital GIS water distribution maps on a tablet to improve efficiency, so that necessary repairs or updates can be noted immediately. Frank stated that he mentioned this to Aaron, who said there are many options to explore. A meeting will be scheduled with the crew to determine which software best fits their needs. Meanwhile, a new set of maps is being prepared.

**Searsport Avenue Water Main Replacement Project:** Frank said he obtained the final plans for the project during his visit to Dirigo Engineering. Eastwood Contractors will return this Spring to repair lawns and trenches that may need attention after the long winter. The District has withheld \$15,000 (Retainage) to ensure that all the work will be done by the Contractor.

**Back Searsport Road Tank Painting Project:** Marcel A. Payeur, Inc. provided an estimate of \$427,500 for painting the Back Searsport Road Tank, including roof handrails, a frost-proof vent, and foundation grouting and sealing. They have a great reputation and were the company that painted the Crocker Road Tank.

**MMA Safety Walk-through:** The Maine Municipal Association (MMA) safety walk-through to meet the Workers' Comp Safety Incentive Program requirements, planned for February 11th, has been rescheduled to March 25th.

**Class 2 Treatment Licenses:** Both Zach Harriman and Ezra Downs have achieved their Class 2 Treatment Licenses. The classes sponsored by the Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA), held in January and February,

were taught by Tom's Water Solutions. Hayden Bradford and Dave Hammond are scheduled to take their Class 2 Treatment license exam on March 16th. Dave and Ezraha will also be attending classes this month to prepare them for their Class 2 Distribution exam.

**Shipmasters Cove Road:** Two new water services on Shipmasters Cove Road, added during the Searsport Avenue Water Main Project, froze this past month. The first freeze happened at 6 Shipmasters Cove during the week of February 2nd. The Belfast Water District was told a plumber would thaw the line on Friday. After reviewing the plumber's plan to thaw it, it was decided that the Belfast Water District should thaw the service to avoid water damage to the finished basement. Shipmasters Cove Road is a private street off Searsport Avenue, so the customer will be billed by the Belfast Water District. The line was thawed, and our customers at both 6 and 8 Shipmasters Cove were told to keep their water running. On Monday, February 9th, the Belfast Water District was told both lines were frozen again, and, as before, we were hired to thaw them. After 6 hours of trying, we found that the 4-inch water main on Shipmasters Cove Road was frozen and could not be thawed. The next day, a temporary water service was hooked up to 2 Shipmasters Cove Road to supply water to both 6 and 8 Shipmasters Cove Road.

**119 Miller Street:** The water line at 119 Miller Street was leaking on the customer's side, causing significant ice buildup in the driveway leading to the Waldo County Communication Center. Waldo County Comm called our on-call duty employee, Hayden Bradford, around 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 14th, to inform us of a possible main break on Miller Street. Hayden contacted the crew to be available while he checked out the problem. He found the water line at 119 Miller Street leaking, turned it off, and let the crew know the problem had been fixed. Hayden then spread salt on the ice in the road in front of the Waldo Comm Center. A contractor fixed the water line on Monday, and then the water was turned back on.

**49A Bridge Street:** Zach Harriman was on-call duty on Friday, February 6th. At 10:30 p.m., Waldo Comm called, stating that a water pipe had come apart inside 49A Bridge Street. Zach met Judson Colby, the property owner, turned off the water, fixed the pipe, and turned the service back on inside the building.

**Water Usage:** Frank told the Trustees that the average daily water use in February was 557,803 gallons. The blowoffs at Alto Street and Highview Terrace are left open to keep the water from freezing.

This past month, the Crew:

- Cleared snow from fire hydrants.
- Checked for frozen fire hydrants.
- Attended MWUA license preparatory classes.
- Conducted in-house safety training.
- Worked on safety issues at the BWD facilities.
- Started the annual maintenance at the wells.

In the upcoming month, the Crew will:

- Clear snow from fire hydrants.
- Check for frozen fire hydrants.
- Continue with annual well maintenance.
- Hayden and Dave will test for the Class 2 Treatment license.
- Ezraha and Dave will attend a prep course for Distribution Class 2 with Tom's Water Solutions.
- Begin installing new water meters.
- Continue with safety training.

Tammy reported to the Board of Trustees that:

- The pre-audit with Nick Henry of Henry Solutions went smoothly, and the final reports will be forwarded to Mr. Dorr of Dorr's Accounting to schedule our on-site audit.
- The Notice of Demand Letter sent to the owner of 35 Smart Road prompted a monthly payment arrangement until the property is sold; a lien will be recorded with the Waldo County Registry of Deeds.
- The \$125,000 CD matured on February 19, 2026, and was converted to a 12-month CD at 3%.  
(\$124,635.14)

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Stephen Hall, and unanimously approved 3-0, to adjourn the meeting at 1:49 p.m.



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Jill B. Goodwin, Secretary/Clerk

