

Belfast Water District Board of Trustees Meeting of May 2, 2022

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met at the Little River Station office on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

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

A roll call of attendees was as follows: Chairman Bruce Osgood, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Colby Horne, Treasurer Stephen Hall, Secretary Jill Goodwin, Superintendent Keith Pooler, and his Administrative Assistant, Tammy Morse.

The Chairman welcomed Charlie Plourde, overseer of the remodel at 41 Wight Street. The Board and Keith thanked Charlie for his work on the remodel and personally being available for us during his retirement. Charlie presented to the Board two garage options; both are 3,200 square feet. Plan A is a sealed split-face block masonry structure, and Plan B is a stick-built wood frame with vinyl siding. The estimate to build the top-of-the-line Plan A garage is \$616,000; Plan B is \$29,700 less. Charlie and Keith discussed a few cost-saving measures with the Board: the site work labor removing the existing hot top and excavating frost walls. Of course, the Plan will have to be reviewed by the City, the Design Committee, and the Planning Board. Charlie stated that timewise, Plan A versus Plan B is about the same. The estimate to complete the remodel of the existing office building at 41 Wight Street is \$200,000. Less than \$70,000 has been spent, including the upcoming painting and new flooring. The Board concurred for Charlie and Keith to present Plan A for City approval. Charlie stated he will contact the City to be placed on their schedule.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Jill Goodwin, and unanimously approved 4-0, to move forward with the Plan A garage that has the sealed split-face block masonry.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne, and unanimously approved 4-0, to accept the minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of April 4, 2022.

The Board discussed the next board meeting date and agreed on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office.

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

Keith reported to the Board that he researched the most economical choice for the temporary storage of the 2-bay and 4-bay garage contents and equipment. To lease a portion of the Armory building was quite expensive versus renting brand-new containers, saving more than half of the cost of the Armory lease. P.E. O'Halloran of Ellsworth charges a monthly rental for brand new 20-foot and 40-foot containers. Keith chose to sign the rental agreement for the containers. The crew is working diligently to meet the 90-day deadline in June. Public Works and the Fire Department have offered space for the containers, if needed.

Office renovations at 41 Wight Street are underway. Moore's Septic inspected the sewer and interior cellar drain lines and found no issues. The heavy rain this past month caused a problem with water coming in through the cellar windows. Our crew vacuumed the drains to remove the accumulated debris and reset the wells with covers to stop debris from plugging the drains. Signed contracts are complete for the painting, flooring, and other sub-contractual work. Keith presented samples of the new cabinets, vinyl flooring, paint color, and counters.

The District received an Award Letter from the Maine Drinking Water Program State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for a loan for our 'Belfast Water District-Talbot Well Pump Station' Project that was placed on the 2022 Primary

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Project list with a total budget of \$3,335,000. This loan has 10% principal forgiveness and a possible rate as low as 1% at closing. If the Board wishes to proceed, the District will confirm its interest in the DWSRF loan offer. All Board members concurred.

Unicap/Bluestreak notified the District by letter dated April 28, 2022, stating that Bluestreak wireless will discontinue internet service in our area as of June 30, 2022. Unicap has leased tower space on our Lincolnville Avenue tank for \$200 a month since 2008. The District received free internet service from Unicap to access our SCADA system. Without internet service, remote access to the SCADA is not possible. Keith stated he will investigate fiber optic, which is available on Lincolnville Avenue.

This past month the crew:

- Assisted with 41 Wight Street renovations.
- Moved 80% of the 4-bay garage contents to temporary storage.
- Cleaned up the yard at Little River Station.
- Installed a new water service at 181 Searsport Avenue.
- Fixed a leak on the gate valve at John/High Street due to the High Street water main break this past winter.
- Located, raised, and repaired gate valves for the paving project in town by Hopkins Construction.

Frank Short is attending prep classes to earn his Treatment 3 license and will test in Bangor soon.

Upcoming this month, the crew will:

- Repair lawns and repave streets from winter main and service breaks.
- Assist with 41 Wight Street renovations.
- Clean up the yards and mow all facilities.
- Finish moving all items out of the garages to temporary storage.
- Vacuum curb boxes and gate boxes; and repair or replace those damaged over the winter.

Tammy and Suzette worked from home during their absence in April and assisted Tammi Short by phone and email. They remotely accessed the Northern Data Software to answer any questions while out of the office. Tammi Short has offered to continue to help when needed.

The District's accountant, Nick Henry of Horton, McFarland & Veysey, will provide the timeline for a surcharge based on the MDOT Goose River Project and Talbot Well Preliminaries for the June 6, 2022, board meeting. The Maine Department of Transportation and Northeast Paving have agreed with the figures that our engineer, Tim Sawtelle, sent for approval; we await the final invoice from MDOT in order to receive Pay Request # 2 submitted to the MDWP in May.

VOTED: On a motion made by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved 4-0, to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m.



Jill Goodwin, Secretary/Clerk