

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met on Monday, November 4, 2024, 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, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Colby Horne, Treasurer Stephen Hall, Secretary Jill Goodwin, Trustee Chad Otis, Superintendent Frank Short, and Administrator Tammy Morse.

VOTED: On a motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne and unanimously approved 5-0, to accept the minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of September 30, 2024.

Next Meeting Date: The Board discussed and agreed on the next meeting date of Monday, December 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Belfast Water District office located at 41 Wight Street in Belfast, Maine.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Superintendent Frank Short presented his report to the Board of Trustees.

Crocker Road Tank Site: The cold storage building at the Crocker Road Tank Site is nearly complete. The crew has moved the items from the rented storage container, which was returned to PE O'Halloran on October 10th, into the new building. The lawn was seeded, and the distribution pipes were organized on the new pipe rack. Unfortunately, the Asset Security Grant through the Maine Drinking Water Program to replace the fence was denied due to insufficient funding. However, the District has \$11,600 available from the Capital Improvements budget to cover the cost of the fence, which will be installed by Midcoast Fence this fall, completing this project.

41 Wight Street: The Intown Design Review Committee has approved the installation of a 6-foot vinyl fence to replace the old wooden fence at the back of the property. The crew will begin work on the subsurface detention pond at the rear of the property to expand employee parking. A laser level is needed to grade the parking area, which may cost around \$3,000. Additionally, the new front steps for our office are complete, and the flagpole was ordered from Nor' East Flagpole, which may take 6 to 8 weeks to arrive.

Jackson Pit Transmission Line: The District must relocate its existing right of way on the property next to the Hutchins' property before Good Deeds can complete the survey. Frank said he would contact the property owner to discuss moving the right of way.

Lead Service Inventory Survey: The initial Lead Service Line Inventory Survey was completed and submitted to the Maine Drinking Water Program before the deadline on October 16th. Per the Lead & Copper Rule Revisions per the Environmental Protection Agency, updates to the inventory are ongoing for the next submission.

New Service Inquiries: Preliminary plans have been received from the contractor to provide an estimate for a 7-unit multifamily building and six house lots at the rear of the property at 243 High Street. The multifamily building will be located off Pierce Street, and six-house lots will be accessed from High Street, where two existing buildings will remain. Larry Jones formerly owned this property, which was the site of the old hospital. Additionally, there was a verbal inquiry regarding Wildwood Lane, off Charles Street Extension, for up to eight house lots.

New Hydrant Flags: Our new fire hydrant flags have arrived, and the crew will soon begin installing them while draining the fire hydrants in preparation for the upcoming winter.

Searsport Avenue Water Main Breaks: The Belfast Water District experienced three water main breaks over three consecutive days on Searsport Avenue.

The first water main break occurred at 41 Searsport Avenue around 5 p.m. on Monday, October 7th, and dewatered a portion of Searsport Avenue. Within 2 hours after shutting gate valves and opening the Searsport/Belfast Interconnect to provide water to Belfast, most Searsport Avenue customers regained their water service. This break was significant, necessitating the replacement of the 13-foot section of pipe with ductile iron and two repair couplings. The crew did an outstanding job, completing the repairs and restoring water service to all customers within six hours. Fire hydrants were left running overnight and for a good portion of the following day to allow any remaining air in the water main to escape.

The second main break occurred again at 41 Searsport Avenue around 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8th, in another 13-foot section. The crew repaired the main, then went home sometime after midnight. Once again, fire hydrants remained open.

The third main break occurred about 4 a.m. on Wednesday, October 9th, in front of 29 Searsport Avenue. Additional pipe was ordered and delivered by 6 a.m. from our supplier, E.J. Prescott. This main break was repaired promptly, and water was restored to our customers on Searsport Avenue by 10 a.m., despite the crew being as exhausted as they were.

Many sincere thanks to our supplier, E.J. Prescott, for delivering the needed materials on short notice, to the Searsport Water District for their assistance with opening the interconnect to provide water to our customers, to the Belfast Highway Department for helping clean up after the last two main breaks; and to the former Belfast Water District Superintendent, Keith Pooler, for helping us repair the water main one of those nights.

Following the third main break, the Interconnect remained active to provide water from the Searsport Town line to Mitchell Street, preventing dewatering in that area in case of further breaks. On Friday, October 11th, the Interconnect was shut off, and nearly 500,000 gallons of water were flushed to remove any air from the system. Since that time, no additional breaks have occurred. The estimated water loss was about 2 million gallons due to the breaks and another 1 million gallons during the flushing process.

These main breaks affected many homes and businesses, including the Harbor Hill Nursing Facility, which was without water for 18 hours over three days—unacceptable. Frank informed the Board that Chairman Bruce Osgood and Engineer Tim Sawtelle were notified and discussed replacing this section of the water main.

General Resolution Loan: The process of laying out and surveying the new right of way for the Jackson Pit Transmission Line has slowed progress; therefore, replacing the failing water main on Searsport Avenue may be the best option to meet the General Resolution Loan spending deadlines. Chairman Bruce Osgood, Tammy, and Frank met with our bond counsel, Lee Bragg of Bernstein Shur, via Zoom to discuss including the replacement of the failing 10-inch AC water main on Searsport Avenue in our General Resolution Loan. Mr. Bragg confirmed that this water main replacement project could be included with a vote from the Belfast Water District Trustees. To comply with the spending requirements of the General Resolution Loan terms, Mr. Bragg noted that the Belfast Water District must spend \$234,000 before November 23rd to meet the loan spending requirements. Frank suggested purchasing 2,700 feet of ductile iron pipe for the Searsport Avenue Water Main Replacement Project. Mr. Bragg confirmed this would be an excellent way to meet the General Resolution Loan spending deadline. Frank was confident our crew could replace the 730 feet of water main on the Footbridge Road. The Searsport Avenue Water Main Replacement bid process would be for the 1,700 feet from Footbridge Road at Route One to connect to Mitchell Street at Route One.

VOTED: On a motion by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Chad Otis and unanimously approved 5-0, to proceed with the Searsport Avenue Water Main Replacement Project to be included in the General Resolution Loan and to authorize Dirigo Engineering, the District's Engineer, to start the bidding process for this water main replacement.

New Service Installations: The crew has installed a 1-inch domestic water service for 125 Union Street via Condon Street. Once the prepayments are received, the crew will install a new 1-inch domestic line for Dana Keene on Footbridge Road and a 2-inch service line for Kristine Wentworth at the former Wentworth Center on Searsport Avenue.

This past month, the crew:

- Turned off seasonal water services.
- Finished the work at the Crocker Road Tank Site.
- Repaired the water main on Searsport Avenue.
- Started winterizing fire hydrants.

For the upcoming month, the crew will:

- Start installing the subsurface detention pond.
- Install the new hydrant flags and continue to drain the hydrants.
- Install two new service taps.

Replacement Pax Mixer: The 10-year-old pax mixer that failed earlier this year will be replaced this month at the 1.3 million-gallon tank on Lincolnville Avenue. A new Pax mixer (identified as PWM400) was ordered from Pax Water Technologies. The tank will be offline for approximately 4 to 5 days to allow for draining, installing the new mixer, disinfecting, refilling the tank, and taking water samples before it is back in service.

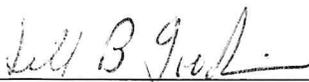
Kaler Road: Frank mentioned receiving an email from the City of Belfast's Economic Development Coordinator regarding a water main extension to Kaler Road. This extension will affect six homes experiencing salt-water infiltration in their wells. The proposed extension is 2,500 feet beyond the nearest existing water main. Since the District does not participate in water main extensions, the costs will need to be covered by the property owners.

Communications: A Belfast Water District Facebook page was created to maintain open communication posts from the District and the public. It is very much appreciated to see posts from others on their Facebook pages to get the word out when an emergency exists. Also, our voice messaging system enables immediate messaging for anyone who calls the office.

Tammy reported to the Board of Trustees that:

- The third-quarter budget report shows we are in good standing comparing the budget and actual expenditures.
- The Maine Public Utilities Commission approved the Belfast Water District's revised Terms and Conditions, including updated Non-Basic Utility Rates, which will take effect on October 1, 2024. These details are now available on our website under the Customer Service tab at www.belfastwater.org.
- The District participated in the Belfast Area High School's (BAHS) Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) program in the past and hopes again to attract students to work in our office as part of their curriculum.
- Our accountant will conduct the pre-audit and attend the meeting next month to discuss the transition to hiring an external auditing company, separate from their accounting services.

VOTED: On a motion by Chad Otis, seconded by Jill Goodwin and unanimously approved 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 p.m.



Jill B. Goodwin, Secretary/Clerk

