

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. The following Trustees were in attendance: Stephen Hall, Kenneth Colby Horne, Henry Chalmers, Bruce Osgood, Eileen Dubinett, and the Superintendent, Keith Pooler.

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 October 10, 2017, board meeting.

The Board discussed the date of the next board meeting and agreed upon, Monday, December 11, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

A brief discussion took place on the questions presented to the District by Ransom Consulting since the last board meeting in regards to the Little River Reservoir known as the City's tax map 29 lot 39.

Keith Pooler reported to the Board of Trustees on the following:

Kyle Payson decided to leave the Belfast Water District; he gave his two-week notice on October 17th, his last day was November 1, 2017. The District advertised for the Laborer/Water Operator position in the Republican Journal, Bangor Daily News, Maine Rural Water Association and Maine Water Utilities Association. The job advertisement, job description, and application are on the homepage of the District's website. We have received many applications for the job. The intent is to start interviewing on Monday, November 27, 2017, and have the new hire on board by December 18, 2017.

The closing for the Rebecca Kenney property on the Back Searsport Road will be later this month. Lee Woodward's office is in the process of preparing the paperwork.

The wind storm on Monday, October 30, 2017, knocked out the power at the District's facilities causing them to run on standby generators. By Wednesday morning, the power was back on except for the Crocker Road tank site which came back on late Thursday night with some electrical issues. Keith stressed to the Board that power at the Crocker Road Tank Site is a necessity and asked for approval to buy a permanent 7kW guardian propane standby generator with a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Eileen Dubinett and unanimously approved, to purchase a permanent 7kW standby generator including installation for the Crocker Road Tank Site at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.

The Goose River Crossing Project's last pay request will be submitted to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank this week by the Maine Drinking Water Program for the closing of the project at the end of the month.

The final paperwork signed on October 18, 2017, for the Coastal Mountain Land Trust walk trail easement is now complete and recorded at the Waldo County Registry of Deeds.

The old MacLeod's Trailer Park on Lower Congress Street is progressing with the new water mains and services within the park. Their water main passed the pressure tests and chlorinated. Their contractor, Farley & Son will install the meter boxes, and the District will set the individual meters. Most of the mobile home owners applied for water service.

Our John Deere backhoe purchased in 2013 from Nortraxx in Bangor has an electrical issue which requires a new wire harness. The estimated cost to fix this is \$4,500.00. The backhoe is just out of warranty so after extensive negotiating, John Deere agreed to pay half of the cost. In the interim, Belfast Public Works is allowing us to use their backhoe.

As granted at last month's board meeting, Keith stated he has test driven trucks from our local dealers and received quotes for 2017 holdovers and 2018 models. The best deal, with our 2010 Ford truck as a trade-in, is the 2018 Ram 1500 Quad Cab. Keith asked permission to order this truck which will take 12 weeks.

VOTED: On a motion made by Bruce Osgood, seconded by Henry Chalmers, and unanimously approved, to purchase the 2018 Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4 x 4 truck for up to \$26,000.00.

Keith informed the Board that the District received the yearly letter from Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust (MMEHT) announcing the 2018 health insurance rate adjustment for the benefit plans. The premium for the District's POS 200 plan will increase 6 percent, as well as increase our copays and coinsurance amounts. Keith expressed to the Board that the District's employees feel fortunate to have their health insurance benefit coverage and added that it is an attractive benefit to keep and attract good employees. After discussion, the Board decided to fund the 2018 health insurance premiums for the employees.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Eileen Dubinett, and unanimously approved, to stay with the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust POS 200 health insurance plan and pay 100% of the monthly premium for the District's employees and family for the 2018 year.

Donald Hahn returned to work on October 26th, two weeks after his surgery, with light duty limitations.

Keith asked the Board if they would like to have the holiday dinner in December and all trustees agreed to the 1st or 2nd weekend.

A reminder to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Rural Water Association 2017 Annual Conference Trustees training dinner on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Cross Insurance Event Center in Bangor, Maine. All Board members chose to attend.

Keith informed the Board, with great sadness, that Maine Rural Water Association's Water Circuit Rider, Ron Boivin, passed away at 64 years of age last Tuesday, October 31, 2017. Everyone who knew Ron would agree he was such a helpful person, especially to small utilities, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. In Ron's honor, 8 to 10 water utility superintendents have nominated him for the Maine Water Utilities Association Lifetime Achievement Award. All will sadly miss Ron Boivin.

Keith reviewed the highlights since the last board meeting:

- The crew is working on service drawings (ties) in the system.
- The District's easement for the water main in front of Perry's Nut House was repaired at the cost of \$4,300.00. Their insurance company considered the uneven surface area in the easement unsafe and asked the District to repair.
- Installed a new 1" service tap for 23 Seaview Terrace on November 1, 2017.

- The ISO (Insurance Services Office) report is finished and submitted on November 2, 2017; seventeen hydrants were part of the flow testing. The gallons per minute flow pressures from 10 years ago have significantly improved from all the construction upgrades in the water system. We await their final report.

Before winter, the crew will install two more service taps, drain hydrants for the season, prepare the wells and tank sites, rebuild the hopper sander, and turn off seasonal services.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Bruce Osgood and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m.



Eileen Dubinett

Eileen Dubinett, Secretary