

Belfast Water District Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2021

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met at the Little River Station office on Monday, November 8, 2021, 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 Henry Chalmers, Secretary Jill Goodwin, Trustee Stephen Hall, Superintendent Keith Pooler, and his Administrative Assistant, Tammy Morse.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall seconded by Henry Chalmers, and unanimously approved 5-0, to accept the minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of October 18, 2021.

The Board discussed the next board meeting date and agreed upon Monday, December 13, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office.

Henry Chalmers requested to speak about his experience with Maine State Retirement System.

Keith Pooler presented his report to the Board of Trustees.

As discussed at last month's meeting, all water utilities in the State of Maine must perform PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl substances) tests by December 31, 2022. Keith stated he collected these required PFAS samples from the Smart Road Well and Jackson Pit Well on October 26th. We should receive the test results before the December meeting.

Keith reviewed Underwater Solutions' report of their inspections and cleaning of both tanks on Lincolnville Avenue. The 500,000-gallon tank was built in 1956 and last painted 18-years ago with a pax mixer installed in 2015. The 1,300,000-gallon tank was built in 1988 and last painted 12-years ago with a pax mixer installed in 2013. Both tanks had the ultrasonic thickness test, which indicated that our tanks were in good shape. Having the pax mixers, especially in our climate, has eliminated stratification from occurring and prevents ice build-up. There was minimal sediment in the bottom of the tanks. Underwater Solutions had no recommendations at this time for these two tanks.

Keith presented the video to the Trustees from DL Maher of their inspection inside the Talbot Well. There were no defects in the screen or the casing. It took 16-hours to inspect to make sure there were no cracks. The pump test showed an astronomical amount of water is readily available from Talbot Well, and we will only use a fraction of it. Talbot Well is designed to have a safe yield of 1,200 GPM when operated by itself for 18-hours a day. Talbot Well will provide the added redundancy since our wells are getting close to their life expectancy of 75-years, Jackson Pit Well drilled in 1965, and Smart Road Well drilled in 1957.

A few months ago, Keith reported to the Board that the Maine Drinking Water Program approved the District's application for a 2021 Capacity Development Grant to create a Drought Contingency Plan. The grant will cover 50% of the project costs up to a maximum reimbursement amount of \$5,000. We hired Maine Rural Water Association to develop this plan for the District. Keith stressed the importance of having a Drought Contingency Plan approved

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and on file should we ever need it. The Board of Trustees concurred. As part of the grant process, a vote of approval from the Belfast Water District's Board of Trustees should be on record to use the Capacity Development Grant funds to create and complete a Drought Contingency Plan.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Jill Goodwin and unanimously approved 5-0, to use the 2021 Capacity Development Grant funds as approved by the MDWP to develop a Drought Contingency Plan for the Belfast Water District.

Keith updated the Board that Superior Court Justice Robert Murray ruled in favor of Nordic Aquafarms regarding the ownership of the intertidal flats (mudflats).

Ed Cotter of Nordic Aquafarms has asked for permission from the Board of Trustees to install two 4 x 4 posts for a future sign near the fire hydrant before the ground freezes. The Board concurred to allow the installation of the posts only and that no sign to be installed until the closing takes place.

The District received a letter from David B. Lousee LLC, Attorney-at-Law, on behalf of Upstream Watch, expressing concerns about the Talbot Well. The Maine Drinking Water Program, Maine PUC, Maine DEP, and the City of Belfast also received the letter. Susan Breau, the hydrogeologist for the Maine Drinking Water program, contacted Keith because the letter claimed that the Talbot Well did not have the proper water quality tests performed and did not have final approval from the Maine Drinking Water Program at the time the well was drilled in 2005. Keith stated he complied with her request for more information and provided her with the records of all water quality tests performed in 2005 and the final letter of approval dated March 23, 2009 from the Maine Drinking Water Program for the Talbot Well.

Keith informed the Board that the Maine Municipal Health Trust provided notice of a minimal increase of 2% for the POS 200 health insurance plan for 2022. There was no increase in health insurance in 2021.

This past month, the crew:

- Drained the fire hydrants
- Numerous seasonal turn-offs
- Prepared the buildings for the cold temperatures
- Attempted to repair the older style hydrant #65 at the corner of Airport Road and Lower Congress Street
- Finished paving
- Replaced or repaired old inoperable curb stops
- Cut two new 1-inch service taps for a duplex at 49 Bridge Street for Judson Colby
- Estimate for future 1-inch domestic and 6-inch sprinkler for GEO Logic, Little River Drive

On Sunday, October 25th, there was a total of 5.15 inches of rain that fell within 6 hours. Keith observed 4-feet of water running over both the Upper and Lower Dams on Little River, with no issues. Keith stated that the so-called 15-inch hurricane pipe that keeps the water level at the Upper Dam down 8-feet from the crest is plugged at this time. We are trying to get the gate opened before winter.

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Upcoming this month, the crew will:

- Check and flag hydrants
- Replace hydrant #65 at the corner of Airport Road and Lower Congress Street
- Prepare buildings for the cold temperatures
- Continue customer service ties
- Get the vehicles ready for winter
- Clean and organize stock for year-end inventory count

VOTED: On a motion made by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved 5-0, to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m.



Jill B. Goodwin, Secretary/Clerk

