

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met at the Little River Station office on Monday, September 12, 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, Trustee Chad Otis, Superintendent Keith Pooler, and his Administrative Assistant, Tammy Morse.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Chad Otis, and unanimously approved 5-0, to accept the minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of August 8, 2022.

The Board discussed the next board meeting date and agreed on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office.

Bruce Osgood and Steve Hall stated they met with Kirsten Hebert, Director of the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA), for her professional assistance with hiring Keith Pooler's replacement as Superintendent. MRWA will do the footwork, advertise, fieldwork, and sit-in on the interviews if requested. MRWA offered a grant for 25 hours free of charge; after that, the rate is \$100 per hour. Kirsten mentioned a few changes that the Board of Trustees may want to consider to widen the search for Keith's replacement. Bruce Osgood, the Chairman, requested a motion to retain MRWA to assist.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Jill Goodwin, and unanimously approved 5-0, to retain Maine Rural Water Association to assist with the hiring process for Keith Pooler's replacement as Superintendent.

The Trustees briefly discussed the suggested changes: qualifiers, travel distance from the water system, operator's license requirement, communications, agreements, etc. These changes will affect the Belfast Water District's Employment Application and the Employee Handbook. They decided to add it to next month's agenda.

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

The office renovations at 41 Wight Street are mostly tying up loose ends, including activating the Internet, ordering new window shades, and servicing the air system. All the work in the cellar is complete.

Keith stated that during our move from the 285 Northport Avenue office to our new office at 41 Wight Street, no in-person services should be allowed for the safety of our customers and the general public. It is intended to start moving on Tuesday, November 1st, and re-open for business on Monday, November 7th, at our new office. At least two weeks before moving, a notice will be placed in the Republican Journal and Village Soup, on our website, and on the City's website. Paving at our new office must be done before Thanksgiving, before the paving plants shut down.

Charlie has scheduled contractors to complete the garage by mid-November. Of course, everything is subject to the weather. To date, the garage construction is progressing well.

Expenses to date for office renovations is \$198,000 (budgeted \$200,000). Total expenses to date for both office and garage, \$271,000.

Keith reported to the Board that the District purchased its 2022 GMC Utility truck, from O'Connor's GMC, which has a lot more towing capacity. We sold our 2016 Ford utility truck for \$16,000, \$1,000 over trade value. A Safety Grant application was submitted to the Maine Municipal Association for a Tommy-Lift Gate, which covers the cost of up to \$3,000. Keith stated the custom decals for the 'Belfast Water District' truck decals are on file with Belfast Signs & Designs at 171 High Street.

The new fence at the Back Searsport Road tank was installed around the tank by Superior Fence. An Asset Security Grant from the Maine Drinking Water Program was approved for reimbursement of up to \$20,000 for the new fence.

The need for a fence around the Lincolnville Avenue 500-gallon tank has come. Space has been an issue, but unfortunately, it is necessary. This past week an artist drew a painting on our tank. Although the artist sincerely apologized, this is private property and a federal offense. The District will apply for another Asset Security Grant for this fence, which is about the same size as Back Searsport Road Tank.

The Goose River Aquifer, where does it all come from? Keith referred to the map to answer this question which explains it best. Smart Road Well, yellow line 200-day where most of the water lies, the ground is saturated. Our wells are 45-50 feet deep in the aquifer. Belfast Water District has acquired property over the years to actively protect the aquifer as shown in the circled areas of the Wellhead Protection Map. The District must continue to be diligent in acquiring property in the aquifer area, or, at the very least, a conservation easement would be beneficial. We thank all our customers who have always had the District in mind. The properties next to the Talbot Well are critical properties, as well as Steven and Laurie Johnson's properties adjacent the Jackson Pit Well. The District purchased the old Calkin Farm property, at the intersection of the Blake Road and Smart Road, for a future treatment plant where all three of our wells would feed.

This past month the crew:

- Assisted with 41 Wight Street renovations.
- Installed the isolation valve on Congress Street at Miller Street.
- Completed the groundwork at 41 Wight Street for the new garage.
- Repaired a few minor service leaks.
- Replaced an old galvanized steel water line at Congress Street and James Street.
- Located water lines for the Public Works projects.
- Paved service and main trenches around town.
- Installed 1-inch domestic service at 59 Lincolnville Avenue.
- Worked with Milton Cat on the generator at Lincolnville Avenue Booster Station.

Keith reviewed the State of Maine Upper Dam Inspection Report with the Trustees, which indicated a few findings. The State of Maine recommends the valves at Upper Dam be opened and drained down on the backside at 10-12 feet. Keith stated he would respond with the corrections and include pictures. Belfast Water District no longer uses the dams.

Hayden finished the prep classes to test for the Water I and Distribution I operator's licenses.

The Belfast Area High School approached the District regarding its Extended Learning Opportunities Internship Program. Kayden Richards applied to work at the Belfast Water District through this program in the afternoons, and

is a great help to us. Part of his internship is to do a project; therefore, Keith believes the aquifer topic would meet Kayden's goals.

A small leak on Waldo Avenue spotted in the road turned out to be a 3/4-inch service at 60 Waldo Avenue, which we repaired, yet Keith could still hear water running. This same service was leaking under the storm drain at approximately 5 GPM, calculating back to January 1, 2022, a loss of 2 million gallons.

The Belfast Water District completed its 2022 Maine Drinking Water Testing Requirements, including nitrates, asbestos, disinfection byproducts, and PFAS. The monthly routine compliance samples for coliform and fluoride are a standard requirement.

Upcoming this month, the crew will:

- Assist with 41 Wight Street.
- Install a new 2-inch domestic water service and new sewer service to the new garage at 41 Wight Street.
- Install a new 1-inch domestic service at 126 Church Street and renew the 6-inch sprinkler service.
- Schedule cleaning of water tanks.
- Assist in building the new garage at 41 Wight Street.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved 5-0, to adjourn the meeting at 2:11 p.m.



Jill Goodwin, Secretary/Clerk

