

Belfast Water District Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2021

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees met at the Little River Station office on Monday, September 20, 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 August 9, 2021.

The Board discussed the next board meeting date and agreed upon Monday, October 18, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office.

Keith Pooler presented his report to the Board of Trustees.

The new 12-inch ductile iron water main at the Goose River Bridge Project was disinfected, and pressure tested, then activated on September 13th. This project adds a blowoff, approximately 1000-feet of 12-inch ductile iron water main, two new fire hydrants, and six new gate valves. The gate valves allow isolation if a temporary water hookup is needed in the future, reducing the number of customers without water if there is a problem on Searsport Avenue. The temporary pipe used during the project has been cut into 20-foot sections, capped at both ends, and stored.

The Smart Road Well 75 horsepower (hp) electric pump motor failed late afternoon on Friday, August 13th. Due to the ongoing issue of not getting parts to fix the SCADA at Smart Road Well, we did not receive an alarm for the failure until the low tank level alarm at Lincolnville Avenue. The crew tried to restart the pump motor manually; still, the Variable Frequency Drive (V.F.D.) was kicking out with an error code. Jim Sorrenson of Dirigo Engineering recommended bypassing the V.F.D. and starting the motor with straight 480 volts from C.M.P. The problem was that the motor was fried. The crew removed the motor while Keith located a replacement.

While Smart Road Well was down, Jackson Pit Well was at its maximum of 600 gpm and not meeting the demand due to high water usage. Keith asked the office staff to call all irrigation customers to stop their water usage temporarily until we call them. To assist, we turned on the Searsport/Belfast interconnect at 120 gpm (lower than usual) to not push too much water through the temporary water main at the Goose River Bridge Project.

Keith called A.C. Electric to rebuild our 75 hp motor and called C.M.P. to assist with their equipment to place the motor onto our truck for delivery. A.C. Electric found a new 60 hp motor within an hour from Bangor, so we purchased it, and Ed Miles, formerly of Northeast Equipment, came to set the 60 hp motor to get us through. In the meantime, DL Maher found a new 75 hp in Minnesota, which they later installed at Smart Road Well. The two spare pump motors (the 75 hp rebuild and the new 60 hp) provide redundancy and can be changed within a few hours. Many thanks are extended to everyone who assisted us with this unexpected dilemma and our crew, who worked diligently to get the well back online.

The Talbot Well pump test starts today with DL Maher. It will take two days to figure out if the screen at the bottom of the well is adequate, and calculate the safe yield of the well. This test will provide Dirigo Engineering with needed information for the final design of the Talbot Well, pump, and motor.

Belfast Water District Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2021

Keith requested permission from the Board to purchase two new trailers to replace the three existing utility trailers that are aged. The new trailers are a lot more versatile and have a better design, plus we no longer need three. Keith stated he had researched various dealers to find the best fit for our needs. The total cost will be no more than \$18,500, and we will sell the old ones to cover some of the cost.

VOTED: On a motion made by Jill Goodwin, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved 5-0, to authorize the purchase of two new trailers up to \$18,500 to replace the three old trailers.

Keith and Tammy explained to the Board that we received a proposal from MainePERS for a new provision to allow employees to join the MainePERS PLD Plan during an open enrollment period (September – November) within their first five years of employment. For those who join under this new provision, employee contributions are paid with after-tax dollars. The Belfast Water District's Board of Trustees must vote to adopt the provisions of 5 M.R.S. 18252-C (P.L. 2021, Chapter 286) as allowed by MainePERS Rule Chapter 803 as an amendment to our existing Participating Local District Agreement with Social Security Section 218 dated April 28, 1995, between the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (formerly known as Maine State Retirement System) and the Belfast Water District. Keith recommended adopting this new provision.

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Kenneth Colby Horne, by majority vote 4-1 (Henry Chalmers opposed); to adopt the provisions of 5 M.R.S. 18252-C (P.L. 2021, Chapter 286) as allowed by MainePERS Rule Chapter 803 to amend the existing Participating Local District Agreement with Social Security Section 218 dated April 28, 1995, between the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (formerly known as Maine State Retirement System) and the Belfast Water District.

On August 17, 2021, Underwater Solutions, Inc. inspected, cleaned, and checked the pax mixers at the 500,000-gallon tank and the 1.3-Million-gallon tank at Lincolnville Avenue. They found that both tanks were in great shape. Keith stated he would present Underwater Solutions' final report and video at the next board meeting. Underwater Solutions, Inc. is a reputable company. Keith suggested reserving them to inspect and clean the Crocker Road Tank and the Back Searsport Road Tank next year.

This past month, the crew:

- Installed a blowoff for disinfection and pressure testing for the 12-inch water main at the Goose River Bridge Project
- Cut a 1-inch water service tap for Cornerspring Montessori School at 248 Congress Street.
- Cut two 1-inch water services for Wayne Corey for the property behind 47 Northport Avenue.
- Installed a new hydrant (65A) on Lower Congress Street by Consumers Fuel Tanks as Keith and the City of Belfast recommended
- Vacuumed curb boxes
- Repaired hydrant # 129 at Swan Lake Avenue and Searsport Avenue damaged by an automobile accident
- Installed a new 4-inch meter at Penobscot McCrum to replace the 16-year-old non-radio read meter
- Renewed 3/4-inch service at 213 Searsport Avenue
- Renewed 3/4-inch services at 19 Congress Street & 31 Congress Street
- Trimmed hydrants

Hayden completed the training for Class I Distribution and Class I Treatment.

Olver Associates has provided professional services for the District for the ongoing design of the water main extension at the cost of \$3,000 as part of the City of Belfast Mayo Street Sewer Project. The benefit of incurring this cost now is that the plans will be ready when the time comes.

Belfast Water District Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2021

Upcoming this month, the crew will:

- Assist DL Maher in prepping the Talbot Well for testing
- Renew 3/4-inch service at 26 Grove Street
- Replace the hydrant on the Battery Road
- Drain hydrants for winterizing

VOTED: On a motion made by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved 5-0, to adjourn the meeting at 1:56 p.m.



Jill B. Goodwin, Secretary/Clerk

