

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Archie Gaul. The following trustees were in attendance: Archie Gaul, Stephen Hall, Henry Chalmers, Bruce Osgood, Eileen Dubinett and Superintendent, Keith Pooler.

VOTED: On a motion made by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting.

The trustees set the date of Monday, November 7, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. for the next board meeting.

The Superintendent, Keith Pooler, reported on the following:

The wells are holding steady although Goose River is about 2 feet lower. Henry Chalmers mentioned Mason Pond is very low. Keith said it is possible that the beavers have dammed along the river between Swan Lake and Smart Road causing Mason Pond to be drained down. There is no water coming down the river from Swan Lake, even though the water is high at the bridge, and it is low in the culverts at Smart Road. Stephen Hall asked who is responsible. Keith answered his first call would be to the warden service. This is a water source so there is some leverage, and if the drought continues, we definitely will be looking into it. At this time, it is not pulling the aquifer down. The drawdowns are about the same as they were a month ago.

Keith reported that Smart Road telemetry and a lot of the equipment was inoperative in which we are not sure of the cause. We had no control over Smart Road for 7 days. The flow meter that controlled the chemical pumps was damaged beyond repair; therefore, we did not pump Smart Road at all. Both stations are protected from power surges. Jackson Pit well was running more which pulled the pumping level down from 16 feet to 19 feet. Once Smart Road Station was repaired and back on, the water rose back up at Jackson Pit. There is a concern about needing rain before the ground freezes, even though Belfast is fortunate we have a huge supply. We have sold some water to cattle farmers by tanker load.

Keith stated while Smart Road well was down, he called Fairpoint Communications to check the two circuits between the stations. Fairpoint stated that when these circuits are gone there will be no more analog and other options (radio, cell, DSL) will have to be explored for communication. The last time we lost the circuit at Jackson Pit, Fairpoint made a special circuit for us about 3 miles long from the Oak Hill Road. Fairpoint will not maintain this circuit if it fails in the future.

On Front Street, Maine Earth ended up digging a total of 35 feet on Pierce Street before they were able to make the connection to the new 12" main. The water main, services, and valves are complete. The fire hydrants are in, but two of them will need hydrant extensions installed. Archie Gaul asked what is left to do on Front Street and Keith said Maine Earth is now working on the road, sewer, storm drainage then excavation of the road and paving.

The Front Street Pay Request # 6 is tomorrow at City Hall. The amount of Maine Earth's pay request is for \$46,185.67. The total work completed is \$487,079.48 with not much more to do. This amount includes the 5% retainage of \$24,353.98 which is held for one year. The original bid was \$470,970.00. Keith stated with a contract this size, it is not uncommon to have the balances to finish above or below

the estimates. Part of the difference from the original estimate for the water portion is due to two 12" gate valves added on Front Street. Another difference from the original estimate is the 1" services to be replaced were actually 2" services. All in all the project cost will balance out. Keith commented that he is very happy with the job done by Maine Earth especially with the super difficult conditions they encountered.

Reporting on the Mayo Street water main replacement project, there was 486 feet of new 6" ductile iron installed, 6 renewed services and 1 new hydrant. The total cost of the project is approximately \$49,092.00 which calculates to \$101.00 per foot compared to hiring a contractor at the cost of \$156.00 per foot. It has proven itself over the years that the district can do the jobs for two thirds of the cost of a contractor if they are small jobs 1,500 feet or less. During the project we encountered ledge and had to use a lot of insulation. If the residents of Mayo Street approach the district to extend to the end another 500 feet, we have good figures to go by. The estimated cost to finish the street would be approximately \$50,000.00. Faulkingham, Inc. did a great job. Their estimate was \$9,950.00 in which the actual cost was \$5,850.00. Cameron's Paving did a great job also. Their estimate was based on 3 inches of pavement, but it ended up being 5 inches of pavement for a cost of \$14,000.00. The crew is cleaning up and leveling out the shoulder of the road, loaming, seeding and haying the lawns.

The Jackson Pit Station rehab is underway. Northeast Equipment has stripped the old siding; and the walls have been sprayed with foam. Yesterday, they started strapping the walls in preparation to install the new metal siding.

The new 6" sprinkler service for the Unitarian Universalist Church on Miller Street is scheduled for tomorrow and the new 2" domestic service for the Cornerspring Montessori School on Lower Congress Street is scheduled next week.

The contractor for the CMP Remediation Project on Washington Street will be starting the work in the street this week. The two isolation valves, that we installed this spring, worked properly when we turned them off last Friday. Now, the piece of water main that the contractor will dig out is completely isolated. Once the remediation is complete, the new 8" ductile iron water main (approximately 150 feet) will be laid between the isolation valves and a new fire hydrant will be installed.

Keith informed the Board that one of our Church Street customers called the water district with her concern about the fire hydrants not being shoveled in a timely manner and that we should advertise for assistance from citizens in Belfast. She also expressed her concern on the City's website. Keith stated that the 235 hydrants are cleared between 24 hours - 96 hours after a snow storm. This allows the highway time for plowing before we start to clear them. Keith told her that he feels the water district does a great job in making sure the hydrants are cleared. Keith assured her that he would check with our liability insurance. Bruce Osgood asked what happens if there is a fire and a hydrant is not cleared, and Keith answered the water district is not liable, it is considered an act of nature.

Don Hahn has started strengthening therapy on his shoulder and his range of motion is improving, but has very little strength. The doctor has not given a return to work date as of his last visit approximately 3 weeks ago. The district has been kept up to date on his progress and results of the visits. Don's next

doctor appointment is in 3 weeks.

Suzette Harford worked a limited schedule in September due to her concussion from the freak accident at her home. In Keith's opinion, she seemed to struggle with the work. To help with her sensitivity to lights, we turned them off above her work station. On October 5th, Suzette returned to her doctor and was advised not to come back to work. The doctor then scheduled a CT scan for Friday, October 7th. This information was texted to Cindy and Tammy. Keith mentioned to the Board that he needs to explain to Suzette that everything needs to go through him from now on. As a new employee, she has no sick time. The district has been paying Suzette with the thinking this situation was short term and that she would make up the sick time. Keith said he will advise Suzette that she should apply for Short Term Disability. Bruce Osgood asked if she would qualify for Short Term Disability and Keith answered yes, as long as she totally cannot work. Keith told Suzette that the district must be kept informed and asked for the paperwork from her doctors to cover both the water district and herself. To date, the only information we have received from a doctor's office is a note dated 9/8/16 stating Suzette is out of work due to a concussion. The District has not received any other paperwork from the doctors involved in her condition.

This situation has created an awful load on Cindy who is retiring at the end of the month and Tammy who is transitioning to Cindy's position. Archie Gaul stated that it takes a long time to train a person for the office and it's important to have somebody here, one person cannot do both jobs. Stephen Hall asked about a Temp Agency. Keith answered that we may have to ask Cindy to stay on longer.

Keith told the Board that Tammy has been working extremely hard, not only training and transitioning into her new position, but also planning Cindy's retirement party. The details of Cindy's retirement along with the estimated cost and a monetary gift from the district were discussed.

An issue with the Belfast Trails arose last week when the water district's garage doors here at Little River Station were inaccessible because of the number of cars parked in front of them. Keith said he would be notifying our contact, Skip Pendleton, to inform the district of any planned outings so this issue will be avoided.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.



Eileen Dubinett, Secretary

