

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. The following were in attendance: Alton Kenney, Archie Gaul, Stephen Hall, Henry Chalmers and Superintendent Keith Pooler. Absent from the meeting was Eileen Dubinett.

The Chairman, Archie Gaul called the meeting to order.

The Minutes of the September 23, 2013 meeting were approved.

The Board proceeded to authorize commitment to the Treasurer, Alton Kenney, the Certificate of Commitment of Water District User Rates.

VOTED: On motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved; to commit to the Treasurer the water rates for the period beginning 9/1/2013 and ending 9/30/2013.

The superintendent, Keith Pooler, reviewed the bids submitted on October 16, 2013 by Southworth-Milton, Inc. (CAT) bid price of \$132,000 less trade-in \$25,000 for a net price of \$107,000; Beauregard Equipment (CASE) bid price of \$108,995 less trade-in \$29,000 for a net price of \$79,995 and Nortrax (John Deere) bid price of \$106,900 less trade-in \$28,000 for a net price of \$78,900.

Keith informed the Board that he and the two equipment operators had the opportunity to see and run the different loader/backhoes. Bid wise John Deere is the lowest bid and it is the loader/backhoe he and the equipment operators prefer and recommends the purchase of the John Deere. Keith informed the Board that there is interest in the old loader/backhoe from a contractor and also a town who might want to buy it from the District for \$30,000.00.

VOTED: On motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Alton Kenney and unanimously approved; to buy the John Deere loader/backhoe with the option of maybe selling the old loader/backhoe for \$30,000.00.

Keith reported on the Maine Public Utilities Commission Notice of Inquiry into Regulatory Reform Plan for Consumer-Owned Water Utilities. The purpose of the inquiry is to develop ideas to streamline the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and/or deregulate the PUC from water utilities. Just as was tried fifteen or twenty years ago, certain large water utilities that don't want to be under PUC regulation are trying to be deregulated from it. This time they are trying to make it a voluntary deregulation by individual water utilities that want to and who qualify to be deregulated. To qualify a utility must be able to prove it is financially, managerially and capable of operating on their own without PUC governance.

Keith informed the Board that he is still of the same opinion and has submitted his opinion to the PUC, that we don't always agree with the PUC nor does every customer the PUC deals with, but that is exactly what is needed. This PUC is a third party, independent opinion that has everybody's best interest in mind. The larger utilities may not need the PUC, but for the smaller ones Keith feels the PUC is still important. There is also opportunity in the notice of inquiry for the water utilities to make suggestions for streamlining the PUC such as the rate making process, electronic mapping of infrastructures, review

of construction plans among a few of the items they review that is also done by the Maine Drinking Water Program. The Bangor Region water utility managers met last week with Jeff McNally of the Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) and expressed our opinions with him on this matter. MWUA is of the same opinion that the PUC could definitely streamline many of their processes. The Bangor Region water utility managers have also asked the PUC to extend the time to submit comments. The PUC has granted the extension of time for the submission of comments to November 1st. By December 1st the PUC will have a report to send to the legislature for their decision.

Keith reported that there has not been any more information regarding the Cross Street and Spring Street project the City is planning for 2014.

The grant application the City submitted for the Front Street reconstruction project came to a halt because of the federal government shutdown.

There has not been any response from E.D. Bessey regarding the District's offer for the property near the Jackson Pit wellhead protection area.

During the past month along with the regular daily work the crew repaired a 6" cast iron main break on High Street at the intersection of Vine Street, repaired a 6" main break on Waldo Avenue near Merriam Drive and installed a new 1" water service on Waldo Avenue for a new optometry office. The crew cleaned up some old fallen trees on the south bank of Little River near the dam. Two of the men did work on six curb boxes with the vacuum excavator for Searsport Water District. Last week Don Hahn and Patrick Richards attended a safety training rodeo for equipment operators in Lewiston.

Coming up, the crew will be installing a new 1" water service in the industrial park of the USDA, draining fire hydrants in preparation for winter and will be replacing a fire hydrant on Searsport Avenue.

The Board scheduled the next meeting for November 25, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.


Alton Kenney, Secretary/Treasurer