

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

The Chairman, Archie Gaul, called the meeting to order.

VOTED: On motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Eileen Dubinett and unanimously approved to accept the Minutes of the January 21, 2014 board meeting.

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

VOTED: On motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Eileen Dubinett and unanimously approved; to commit to the Treasurer the water user rates for the period beginning 1/1/2014 and ending 1/31/14.

Eileen Dubinett informed the Board that she conducted a review of the District's bonds. She reported that according to the Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Policy, the files for the six existing bonds were reviewed January 31, 2014. The original applications, the Minutes of the meetings approving the action and the supporting documents are in place and up to date.

Keith informed the Board that he purchased another handheld unit to read water meters at a cost \$5,968.00. This handheld unit is identical to the one purchased in 2012. Keith explained why he purchased this without prior Board approval. Because Tammy and the crew have become so efficient with the handheld unit the time to read meters has been reduced from 120 hours per month to about 64 hours. With a second unit we expect to reduce the time to 30 to 40 hours. Based on these reduced man hours to read meters, it will take approximately 6 months to recoup the cost of the unit. Having a second handheld unit will allow us to continue reading meters should the other one break. The new unit is identical to the first one and that one has proved to be bullet proof. These handhelds will be supported for the next seven years. The manufacturer, Neptune, has come out with a new handheld unit, the new units are \$6,400, there would a learning curve to operate it and there has already been operating problems with it. Because our supplier had only two handheld units left on the shelf, rather than wait any longer, Keith told the Board he decided to purchase one of them. Stephen Hall commented that Keith should not let this set a precedent, because the Board generally goes along with what he wants. Keith indicated that hopefully this will be the one and only time he will do that.

Archie questioned how much longer it will be before the entire system has radio read meters. Keith indicated that it will be about four more years in order to spread out the expense of the new meters. The older meters are being changed out first as well as meters that are difficult to access to read. A few customers do not want a radio read meter installed. Those customers are informed that the District will upgrade their meter but it will be a touch read that does not emit radio frequencies, but the District reserves the right in the future they may be charged a fee to read the meters.

Keith reported on the following:

Informed the Board that the District's attorney is working on preparing the deed for the Bessey lot on Smart Road and it is expected to be completed before the next board meeting.

The District's engineer, Tim Sawtelle, is working on the plans for the Cross Street and Spring Street water main upgrade project and is coordinating with the city's engineering firm. The project will be going out to bid very soon.

Greg Curtis has been contacted regarding his inquiry about purchasing some land on the Durham lot and informed him about the board's desire to possibly sell the entire property and asked him to make an offer. Mr. Curtis indicated that he would consider it and also asked for assurance that the District would not sell the lot before he made an offer. Keith said that he did assure him the lot would not be sold until the District heard from him.

Informed the Board about the phone call Eileen received at her home from an 877 number offering a free water test. Because this is nothing the water district initiated, Keith said he called dispatch about the phone message and asked them should anyone call in to them about the message to inform him. If it persists, he will inform the drinking water program so they can warn other water districts as well.

In the late afternoon on Monday the 17th there was a water main break on the 6" cast iron main on Wight Street. The estimated water loss is approximately 100,000 gallons of water. Not sure if frost was the cause of the break or the old age of the pipe. The crew was able to repair the main and have water service back on in about three hours.

Keith explained that there are two water mains on Wight one is cast iron with every service but one on that main, the other main is 12" ductile iron that was installed from Congress Street down to Wight Street when the Tall Pines nursing home facility was built in the 80's. The 12" ductile iron then reduces to 8" ductile iron that connects with Northport Avenue. At that time none of the services were connected into the new main. This year the District plans to connect the eleven services to the ductile iron main that are on the long side of the street and next year the remaining nine services on the short side of the street will be connected to the ductile iron main.

Recommended the Board consider granting a merit raise of .60 per hour for Tammy Morse.

VOTED: On motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved; to grant a merit raise of .60 per hour for Tammy Morse.

The crew recently conducted the year-end inventory in preparation for the audit. Due to the many snow storms and extremely cold weather the crew has been shoveling snow from hydrants and going to many houses that have frozen pipes and frozen meters. Don and Pat have been working on reconditioning the inside and outside of the water tank on the vacuum excavator. They did a very good

job and the tank looks very good. If time permits the crew will recondition the frame on the dump truck by applying protective undercoating. The crew has been working at the wells making sure the pumps are working properly, changing the oils and fluids in the pumps and rebuilding the chemical pumps.

Discussed having the Crocker Road Standpipe inspected to determine if it needs painting and also proceed with plans to install a Pax Mixer in the tank to prevent ice buildup and improve the chlorine residuals. Keith will work on getting estimates for the cost of inspecting the tank and a Pax Mixer.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



Alton Kenney, Secretary/Treasurer

