

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

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

The Minutes of the January 28, 2013 Minutes were approved.

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

VOTED: On motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers, unanimously approved; to commit to the treasurer the water rates for the period beginning 1/1/2013 and ending 1/31/2013.

Heard from Cindy Clements about the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS) actions being recommended by the Participating Local District Advisory Committee to protect the plans' fiscal health and responsiveness to employer and member needs which were submitted to the Legislature in January 2013. Cindy informed the Board that she will be attending the information session in Bangor on March 7th to get more information about the proposed changes in the retirement system for participating local district. Cindy explained that since 2010 the employer contribution rate has been increased slightly each year and for 2013 the rate will increase by 1.2% to 6.5%.

Keith reported to the Board that the wood harvesting on the Smart Road lot is proceeding and a couple loads of wood have been hauled out so far. The wood cutter is doing a good job by not damaging the ground and he is pleased with the quality of wood that has been marked out for cutting by the forester, Mark Vanna.

The water meter program is continuing. Another 260 Neptune meters have been purchased and the crew has begun to install those meters. Keith indicated that he hoped to get the meters installed this winter, but because some meters are under mobile homes and meter pits or have bad cellar shutoffs or curb stops, we will have to wait until spring to change those meters because we do not want to disrupt anything under somebody's mobile home when the weather is cold or have to end up digging or uncovering a meter pit in the winter. So far we are pleased with the new meters that have been installed and find that we are capturing more accurate water usage. In the future, when all the meters are in the system are radio reads, we should be able to convert to monthly billing.

On February 12th Searsport Water District superintendent, Herb Krohnholm, asked for two men from our crew to help them the next day to repair a fire hydrant leak in Stockton Springs, because they are short on personnel. Keith indicated that he and Patrick went to help. Herb indicated that they had lost 300,000 gallons of water over night. It was apparent that the hydrant leak was not the only leak in the system. Another leak was located in Searsport and the rest of the Belfast Water District's crew was called in to help repair that leak. Both leaks were repaired that day and our crew was home by 5:30 p.m. Herb Krohnholm was very appreciative and thanks the Board and Belfast Water District for helping them get out of a jam. Keith indicated that he treated this assistance as part of the Maine Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MEWARN) that the District is a member of for providing mutual aid to other water utilities. According to the MEWARN Agreement, Searsport Water District has been billed for the labor, material and equipment used for the repairs.

Keith informed the Board that the work the District did for Searsport Water District brought up the question of insurance coverage. In the Maine WARN agreement it states that both the requesting and responding utility will carry their own worker's compensation insurance. Keith advised the Board that he spoke to Marcus Ballou from the Maine Municipal Association Risk Management Service the District is insured with. Marcus stated he had reviewed the ME WARN agreement when it was created and indicated the District is covered as long as the responding utility has a designated responsible person in charge of their crew at the utility they respond to. As far as the liability insurance, Marcus Ballou indicated that because water districts are protected under the Maine Tort Claims Act, he felt we were as well protected as possible.

Keith told the Board the he has applied for a safety enhancement grant to purchase a vehicle lift for the garage. The application is being processed and we should know in a few weeks if the grant will be awarded.

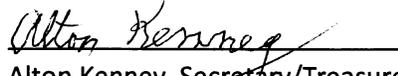
Keith showed the Board the fluoridation informational flyer produced from the Maine Drinking Water Program that was developed by Jennifer Donnell. He pointed out that the flyer has a photo of the fluoride equipment at the District's Jackson Pit pump station. Jennifer has been working closely with the utilities that fluoridate drinking water and has done a very good job providing information and promoting compliance.

Keith informed the Board that a water leak on Cedar Street was reported on Monday the 25th. The leak was on the 4" main on Cedar Street and located near the entrance of the Main Street Mall. Keith explained, although the leak was tough to repair, the toughest part is finding suitable material to backfill the hole because of the time of the year. Keith indicated that he would like to design a building to make an enclosure over the cement foundation that is located next to the 2-bay garage at the Little River Station. It would be constructed to be a heated building to store approximately 25 to 30 yards of gravel that would be kept from freezing and would provide the proper backfill for winter repairs. Keith indicated he will provide the board with a plan and cost estimate for the next board meeting to review.

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Keith reported to the Board that the crew has been installing the new radio read meters and keeping fire hydrants cleared of snow and operational. In March they will be reviewing and conducting safety training work sessions and will also be cleaning and painting the wells and pump stations.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.


Alton Kenney, Secretary/Treasurer

