

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

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

VOTED: On motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Eileen Dubinett, and after noting two minor grammatical errors to be corrected, the Minutes of the April 23, 2013 were unanimously 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 Eileen Dubinett, unanimously approved; to commit to the Treasurer the water rates for the period beginning 4/1/2013 and ending 4/30/2013.

VOTED: On motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Henry Chalmers, unanimously approved; to commit to the Treasurer the water rates for the period beginning 5/1/2013 and ending 5/31/2013.

Reviewed the information provided by the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust regarding domestic partner coverage for health, dental, vision, and life insurance plans, updating the Health Trust's inclusion of same sex spouses. As of January 1, 2013, same sex couples are allowed to marry in Maine and the health trust has added the inclusion of same sex spouses to the benefit structure of their existing domestic partner coverage in accordance with Maine law. The Board decided to add domestic partner coverage for both opposite sex domestic partner and same sex legally married spouses benefits provided to the District's employees.

VOTED: On motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Stephen Hall, unanimously moved to offer Domestic Partner coverage as defined by Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust.

Heard from Cindy Clements about the bill before the Maine Legislature LD 1496, to modernize and simplify the tax code. Among the many provisions of the bill is a provision to expand the sales tax base, which includes a sales tax for residential water. Cindy explained that commercial and industrial water is taxable, residential water has never been taxable. Currently, the bill is still in work sessions.

The superintendent, Keith Pooler, reported on the following:

The electrical upgrade at the Smart Road well has been completed. Central Maine Power Co. installed new transformers and installed a neutral wire to achieve a Y electrical service for the pump motor. The District's electrician ran a new service from the drop into the main panel in the building. The next step is to operate the well pump using the backup generator to see if the variable frequency drive will operate under this condition. If it still doesn't work, Stultz Electric has agreed to temporarily set up a new variable frequency drive and we will try that using the backup generator. If it works properly we will know that the old variable frequency drive is not working right and will have to do something about replacing the variable frequency drive. The way it is set up now it is usable, but it is not good for the

system to have to turn the pump on with the backup generator, but it is being turned on wide open which is not good for the motor or the pipes.

The Pax Mixer is scheduled to be installed on June 12th in the 1.3 Million gallons tank on Lincolnville Avenue. We will begin to drain the tank on the 9th of June and the plan is to have the tank back on line by the 16th. Keith indicated that he is looking forward to getting the mixer installed because it will be a great asset to the system. It will keep the ice from forming in the tank as well as keep the mixing better inside of the tank to ensure proper residuals.

The new Grundomat boring tool has been delivered and is ready for use. We have recently provided estimates for four new services, but none have been installed at this time.

Keith informed the Board that because of the city's street paving project in the down town area and after reviewing the condition of the water main on Market Street, the crew replaced 230 ft. of 1" main and renewed the two services on that street. On other streets included in the paving project, the crew replaced a 4" gate valve on Anderson Street. The crew put new packing in gate valves at Waldo and Main, Church and Main and put on countless pavement risers to meet the thickness of the new pavement. In the future, Keith indicated that he has asked the public works department and city hall to provide the District with a list of streets that are going to be paved so that we can plan ahead for any work that needs to be done on the mains or services.

The city planner, Wayne Marshall, has informed us of the proposed sewer, storm water and street work project for next year on Cross Street from Main to Miller and Spring Street from Cross Street to Front Street. The water main on Cross Street is old 4" cast iron pipe and there is nothing for a water main on a section of Spring Street. If the city does their project, Keith recommended the District should get in on the same construction project with the city to upgrade and install a new main and include replacing a hydrant and install a second hydrant in this area as well as include a tee and gate for future extension of the main to loop the system.

Keith advised the Board that it will be in the best interest of the District to allow our engineer, Tim Sawtelle of Dirigo Engineering, to do the engineering work on the water system project and give it to the city's engineering firm.

VOTED: On motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Alton Kenney, unanimously approved; to pursue along with the city sewer project, replacing the water main on Spring Street including extending the new water main on Spring Street to Front Street, with the engineering work to be done by Tim Sawtelle of Dirigo Engineering.

Keith reviewed the cost of one option to do the Goose River Crossing main upgrade and the preliminary drawing of the project. The District's engineer, Tim Sawtelle, advised the use of 16" ball and socket ductile iron main. This type of main is the Cadillac of pipe and is very expensive. Keith indicated that he and Tim are now comparing different options such a H.D.P.E pipe for the portion of the main under the river. Hopefully by the end of the week a new cost estimate will be available. Keith explained that the

District plans to do \$150,000 a year in improvements and should be able to include this project for this year.

Keith mentioned that the PUC is recommending another audit of the cost of CMP smart meter project. Apparently the cost of the project is higher than they projected. They expected savings of \$25 million over 20 years and in reality they are now saying the cost will be \$99 million in 20 years. Keith indicated he did not think this will affect our radio read meters program. We have not done an actual cost analysis with the new meters, but 1) we are saving a lot in labor time enabling the crew to get other work done, 2) the meter readings and water usage are more accurate, 3) the customers seem to be happy with the new meters, 4) we have been able to help a few customers pinpoint to the day and minute when a leak occurred.

This District received a \$2,500 matching grant from the Maine Drinking Water Program to update the Capital Improvement Plan that was last updated in 2004. Since that time a lot of things have been done to the system and things have changed on what we want to do. The Capital Improvement Plan is important to have when it comes time to borrowing money for capital expenditures.

Over the past month the crew has replaced the 4" gate valve on Anderson Street, flushed all the hydrants and mains in the system, changed out approximately 40 meters to the new radio read meters and they have been getting the grounds at Smart Road Pump Station cleaned up after the work that was done last year on the well rehab.

Keith informed the Board he has been leak detecting in the system and has found one possible leak on the Battery Road and discovered it was a problem with the hydrant.

In the coming month we will be seeing the Pax mixer being installed, continue the leak detection survey, replace a fire hydrant on Searsport Avenue near the Wonderview Cottages, renew a water service on Allyn Street and there will be plenty of cement sidewalk and hot top patches to repair.

Steve Hall questioned how many water mains has the District replaced in the last ten years? Keith indicated that he estimates the District replaces a little over 1% annually which is 2,000 feet. In 2009 and 2010 the District replaced a total of 11,000 feet of water mains. We have a lot of mains that are over 100 years old and we have made a lot of progress with replacements. We find projects when the city does work in those area where the water mains should be replaced as well as do some of our own projects such as the Goose River Crossing that we are currently planning to do. Keith stated it costs about \$110 to \$120 per foot to contract water main replacements. The District has done a lot of the water main replacements on smaller projects for about 60 to 65% of the contractors cost.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.


Alton Kenney, Secretary/Treasurer

