

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, Stephen Hall, Henry Chalmers, Eileen Dubinett and Superintendent Keith Pooler. Absent from the meeting was Alton Kenney.

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 October 21, 2013 meeting.

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 10/1/2013 and ending 10/31/2013.

The superintendent, Keith Pooler, introduced Ethan Bessey of E D Bessey Lumber Products, LLC. owner of property they have offered for sale to the District that is located on Route 141 that abuts the Jackson Pit property. The Board had previously offered \$750 per acre and Mr. Bessey made a counter offer of \$1,000 per acre. Ethan Bessey explained that his company does not make a habit of buying and then selling land, typically it is held for a long time. In this particular parcel there never was the intention to hold the land. Mr. Bessey explained there is some wood there but the larger value would be conservation with the water source there or possibly development. However, he said they want to do what is best for their family and the shareholders of the company. Ethan informed the Board that he didn't think we are as far off with an offer. The \$750 is sort of the lower end of a range against the \$1,000 per acre and thinks we could come to an arrangement that would be close. Ethan explained that he is here before the Board to see what can be done to reach an agreement. Keith advised the Board that he did walk the property and the difficulty with the wood is getting to it and personally he does not feel the possibility of building lots on the property is very good. Keith indicated that he has asked the District's wood cutter, David Keene, to give us an idea of the wood value on the property, but he has not had a chance to do that yet. Steve Hall suggested the Board should wait to get an answer from David Keene. Henry Chalmers asked Ethan if he was willing to take lower than \$750 and Ethan said no, but would be willing to meet halfway which would be \$875 per acre. Archie Gaul suggested the Board should talk about this more. Keith said he would make sure he meets with David Keene this week to get his opinion and plan to give Ethan Bessey an answer by December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Keith reported on the following:

The new John Deere loader/backhoe should arrive the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>. The Town of Morrill has sent a letter of intent to purchase the old backhoe for \$30,000. The matter is going before the town board on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> for approval.

The 2014 water main project on Cross and Spring Streets is progressing. The City is putting the project out to bid for the project to start in the spring. The District applied for a Drinking Water Program State

Revolving Loan. The project did not make the primary list, but is #8 on the backup list. It is not uncommon to get bumped to the primary list. The District is proceeding to apply with the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for a long term general obligation revenue bond.

The District sent out a request for proposal for a bond counsel and received a quote from Bernstein Shur Law Office for \$2,800 to provide counsel services in connection with the 2014 construction project. This is a savings of \$6,200 from the last bond processing done in 2012 by Eaton Peabody.

The 2015 Front Street reconstruction project the City is planning has received preliminary approval for their grant application with the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The District will be replacing the water lines on Front Street and will be applying for a DWPSRF loan or a Maine Municipal Bond Bank general obligation bond for the project.

Reviewed with the Board the health insurance coverage through the Maine Municipal Employee's Health Trust and the 4% increase in the health insurance rate for 2014.

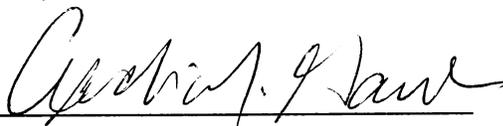
Reviewed with the Board the benefits and insurance survey conducted by Maine Rural Water Association.

The crew has installed two new water service taps on John Robinson Way, replaced a fire hydrant on Searsport Avenue, fixed a water main leak on Front Street and is starting to winterize hydrants.

Keith reported that over 500 residential meters have been changed out to the new radio read meters and many of the commercial meters have been fitted with R900 antennas to allow them to be a radio read meter.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

  
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Archie J. Gaul, Chairman