

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. Those in attendance were: Henry Chalmers, Archie Gaul, Eileen Dubinett, Alton Kenney, 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 October 20, 2014 board meeting.

VOTED: On motion by Stephen Hall, seconded Eileen Dubinett and unanimously approved; to commit to the Treasurer the water user rates for the period beginning 10/1/14 and ending 10/31/14.

Archie commented that he felt it does not make any sense to have a meeting in December since the last two weeks in the month are shortened because of the holidays and it would be difficult for the office staff to get all of the end of year work done. Also, it was suggested by Cindy and Tammy that it might be good to start scheduling the board meetings on the second Monday of each month as was done in the past. The Board agreed to not meet in December and to start meeting on the second Monday of each month commencing with a meeting on January 12, 2015. The one exception will be October as the second Monday is Columbus Day.

The superintendent, Keith Pooler reported on the following:

The water main replacement project the District plans to do on Front Street in 2015 in conjunction with the City of Belfast's project will now be done in two phases because the City is not going to be ready to do their portion of the project until 2016. The District has already applied for funding with the Maine Drinking Water Program State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) and has been placed on the primary project list. Keith explained that he contacted Normand Lamie, who oversees the funds in SRF Program, asking what could be done. Normand suggested the District write a letter to the Maine Drinking Water Program to revise the Front Street water main replacement project to be done in two phases. The Phase 1 project will replace the water main from Main Street to Miller Street as well as do the design for the Phase 2 portion of the project from Pierce Street to Main Street. The preliminary cost estimate for Phase 1 is \$350,000. In 2015 the water district will be doing its own water main improvement project from Main Street to Miller Street. Probably in 2016 what will work best for everybody concerned is to do a joint project with the City with one contractor. As far as the engineering is concerned it is still hoped that the District's engineer, Tim Sawtelle, will still be involved. It is hoped that when the city receives the RFP's that Tim will come in lowest and does the whole project. Keith indicated that there is no guarantee that the District's Phase 2 project for 2016 will get on the SRF funding list and there is no guarantee that the percentage rate for the loan will be the same as the rate in 2015.

VOTED: On motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Alton Kenney and unanimously approved; to proceed with the Front Street water main replacement project in two phases. Phase 1 in 2015 – to construct the water main replacement project on Front Street from Main Street to Miller Street including the design allowance for Pierce Street to Main Street for the estimated cost of \$320,000; and Phase 2- in 2016 to

construct the water main replacement project on Front Street from Pierce Street to Main Street in conjunction with the City's project for the estimated cost of \$580,000.

During the water main upgrade project on Spring Street this year, the two water services for McClintock Block apartment building were tied to one temporary line that was run into the building. When the two new service lines were tapped into the new main, they were each connected to the apartment building. Recently, the water meters for the two new water services were read and it was discovered that one meter moved a lot and the second meter did not move at all. It was found that the curb stop could not be turned on and it was necessary to dig it up and it was found the corporation in the main was not turned on. The contractor hadn't turned it on and it wasn't noticed during inspection. After backfilling from this repair the crew noticed there was a lot of water running down the street. The next day, the crew dug up a service six or eight feet away from the McClintock Block service and it was found that the new service pipe was damaged when it was backfilled during construction and it was leaking. Eastwood Contractors has been billed for these repairs amounting to \$3,138.75. Keith told the Board that he still thinks Eastwood Contractors did a good job. Accidents do happen.

Reviewed wages and benefits. The health insurance plan through Maine Municipal Employee's Health Trust will increase by 7% in 2015. The retiree's health insurance increased as well. There is no change in the coverage, deductibles or out of pocket costs. Keith proposed a 2% wage increase across the board for 2016. The crew had a really long year, did a great job and got a lot accomplished this year and worked very hard. This proposed increase is to reward them for what they did, keep them in stride with other districts and competitors and to help out a bit with the 1.7% increase in the consumer price index. Keith indicated that he reviewed the employee handbook and did not see any changes he would recommend at this time and feels that everyone is satisfied with the benefits they receive.

VOTED: On motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Stephen Hall and unanimously approved; to increase the employee wages by 2% for 2015.

VOTED: On motion by Stephen Hall, seconded by Alton Kenney and unanimously approved; to accept the 7% rate increase for the POS-200 health insurance coverage with Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust.

The crew has been turning off a lot of summer services and they have been winterizing the fire hydrants in the system. In the winter time the hydrants are checked bi-monthly to make sure they are shoveled out, the flag is still there and the barrel is dry so if the hydrant does get used it will work. It is a big expense for the city and they deserve to know that if they use a hydrant it is available.

On December 1st, the crew will be removing the Smart Road Well motor to have it rebuilt by Stultz Electric. The plan is to have it back in service by the 5th of December.

Request for bids on heating fuel was sent to five companies. Maine Energy was selected to supply propane at \$2.07/gal. and #2 fuel at \$3.30/gal.

According to reports electric rates for medium service customers are to double in price to 0.12000 per kWh. After researching for electric supplies, the District signed an agreement with Maine Power Options, an aggregator that many town, cities and utilities use in Maine, for price of 0.08340 per kWh for a period of 35 months.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



Alton Kenney, Secretary/Treasurer
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