

Trustees of the Belfast Water District met on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little River Station office. The following Trustees were in attendance: Stephen Hall, Kenneth Colby Horne, Bruce Osgood, Henry Chalmers, Eileen Dubinett, and the Superintendent, Keith Pooler.

Stephen Hall, the Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Bruce Osgood unanimously approved, to enter into executive session to meet via conference call with the District's legal counsel, Andrew Hamilton of Eaton Peabody, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)E at 1:00 p.m.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Henry Chalmers, seconded by Bruce Osgood and unanimously approved, to adjourn executive session at 1:35 p.m.

Resume the regularly scheduled board meeting.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Eileen Dubinett seconded by Henry Chalmers and unanimously approved, to accept the Minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of February 11, 2019.

The Board discussed the date of the next board meeting and agreed upon, Monday, April 8, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

The Superintendent, Keith Pooler, updated the Board on the following:

As mentioned at last month's board meeting the District would gather quotes from engineers for the permitting process to build. The District contracted Thomas Fowler, P.E. LLC, Civil Engineer to conduct the Belfast Water District's preliminary research into the site planning and permit application process for our proposed headquarters off the Crocker Road.

The new engineered plan of the Crocker Road includes a 60-foot vegetation buffer as required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) along the entrance of the property due to phosphorus. The City allotted this 60-foot vegetation buffer and will install a retention pond to gain remediation credits from the DEP to offset the phosphorus issue. Mr. Fowler stated that if the City shares its remediation credits, the District will be in a better position to get the necessary permits to build, meet, prove, and satisfy the required conditions.

Keith informed the Board that Joanne Moesswilde invited him to a discussion with the Coastal Mountain Land Trust, Belfast Bay Watershed, and other committees, about what conservation should look like for the Upper Reservoir. The meeting is Monday, March 25, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Belfast Free Library in the Abbott Room.

Keith wanted to bring to the Board's attention the Acts brought before the State of Maine Legislature that have the potential to harm the Belfast Water District as well as all water districts in the state. Maine Water Utilities Association, Maine Rural Water Association, and Maine Public Utilities Commission submitted letters against LD 620 and LD 197.

- LD 620 An Act Regarding Licensing of Land-based Aquaculture Facilities
- LD 197 An Act to Convene a Working Group to Authorize a Public Trust for Maine's Groundwater and To Impose a 2-year Moratorium on a Large-scale Groundwater Extraction  
This was voted "Ought Not to Pass".

- LD 199 An Act to Create the Water Resources Planning Committee “to establish the Water Resources Planning Committee within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill describes requirements related to committee membership, meetings, and reporting. It details 3 phases on which the committee is required to focus effort. It also requires the committee to conduct an annual review of state policy regarding water resources, provide guidance to municipalities and develop and disseminate educational materials on water resources and the regulatory regime.” This water resource plan committee was established in 2007 with hydrologists, utilities, and many other diverse groups due to the drought scare. In 2012, Governor Le Page disbanded this committee. All utilities want to see this reinstated because it is made up of many state agencies that use good scientific information to monitor water conditions.

Keith is happy to report to the Board that Dustin Howes took the Class 1 Treatment test and passed. He is now licensed as a Class 1 Operator and is attending a preparatory course for Class II Treatment with Class II Distribution to follow.

Keith reported that the District’s two 36-month CDs mature this month, and Camden National Bank is offering an excellent opportunity for us to earn 2.3% interest by converting them to 13-month CDs. The penalty for early withdrawal is 6-months interest. We have two 18-month independent CDs that will auto-renew this month at the current rate of .40% interest which allow up to 1/2 withdrawal without penalty.

The Wacker Neuson excavator is expected to be delivered before our April board meeting.

Keith informed the Board that he would be on vacation starting 3/30/19 to 4/7/19.

Recently, a customer was perplexed with the fees of the fire hydrants in the city budget and asked what would happen if removed. Keith explained that public fire protection is a standby service and the costs for public fire protection are not for the water nor are the costs related to the fire department, but the increased sizes of water mains and water capacity in the infrastructure to ensure adequate protection to fight the fire.

Last month, the Belfast Wastewater Treatment Plant lost power, and Central Maine Power (CMP) was unable to access their three-phase electrical cable inside the 30-feet of 6-inch conduit to repair because of ice plugging the conduit. The treatment plant called us for help so our crew assisted by rigging hose and cable to the District’s steamer to thaw the ice in the conduit. CMP was then able to pull through their new three-phase cable to restore the treatment plant’s power. Keith commended the crew for a job well done!

Keith reported on the highlights since the last board meeting:

- Maintenance at the wells
- Maintenance of the standby generators
- Check hydrants
- Changed out meters
- Prepared to demolish the buildings at 86 Smart Road. We will check the road posting before calling DM & J Waste to remove the debris.

The crew will continue the winter maintenance at wells, maintenance of the standby generators, and change out old water meters. Every spring our crew completes safety training as recommended by our insurance carrier, Maine Municipal Association.

Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) provided Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on December 6, 2018, Docket # 2018-00327, to obtain comments and information from interested persons regarding possible amendments to Chapter 62 to be consistent with Chapter 660. Those that took the lead in submitting suggestions were Maine Water Utilities Association and Maine Rural Water Association, including 12 water utilities, as well as comments from the Office of the Public Advocate.

Keith announced to the Board that next month, April 2019, the Belfast Water District will be incorporated for 100 years. The Board requested centennial pins (1919-2019) as a commemoration.

**VOTED:** On a motion made by Henry Chalmers seconded by Bruce Osgood and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m.



Eileen Dubinett  
Eileen Dubinett, Secretary

