

October 17, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Trustees of the Auburn Water District was held at the office of the Auburn Water District, 268 Court Street, on Wednesday October 17, 2018 at 4:00pm.

Members present: Dan Bilodeau, Robert Cavanagh, Tizz Crowley(Treasurer), K. C. Geiger (President) , Mary Sylvester and Andrew Titus.. Also present : Sid Hazelton, Superintendent , Michael Broadbent, Assistant Superintendent and Greg Leighton of Maine Water Company (Finance Manager).

Absent: Preston Chapman

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Dan Bilodeau, it was unanimously voted: **To accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2018** as amended.

FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE – The revenues are at a favorable variance of \$40,000 through the month of September. We are seeing a lot of new water service activity. The expenses are also favorable. The projected cash on hand at year end is \$700,000. Trustee Tizz Crowley questioned how long that amount would carry the District.

RATIFY PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Robert Cavanagh, seconded by Mary Sylvester, it was unanimously voted: **To ratify the payment of bills in the amount of \$479,761.80 as shown on the printout dated September 1, 2018– September 30, 2018.**

A lot of projects have not been closed out which should reduce our inventory count. The District's fuel costs were questioned. Ness Oil is comparable to other fuel companies.

Trustee Tizz Crowley requested better narratives on payables. She is also looking for a cost breakdown on the Measuring of the Lake, who attended and employee labor costs to set up the event.

OPEN SESSION - As no one from the public was in attendance, the Open Session was closed.

ACTIVITY REPORT - The water crew is working at the Airport Project. The pipe bursting on Pionite Rd is scheduled for next week. The big draw on labor has been adjusting gates for all the paving projects.

NEW BUSINESS

WATER QUALITY UPDATE –. The algae issue in the lake has generated a few telephone calls. The treatment appears to have been effective and the turbidity has declined steadily and is consistently below 1. There is still a fair amount of algae activity. The shorter days and cooler nights of Fall will help reduce the algae. The team will get together to prepare a report to the State and discuss long term strategies for lake water quality. The District will be applying for an Alum Permit this winter and keep the Algaecide Permit active. The permit allows for three treatments a year. The cost of the treatment was about \$9,000 split with Lewiston.

PROJECT UPDATE- The District has replaced 1 ½ miles of pipe this year. There are several projects in progress: Schooner Estates Memory Care (substantial connection fees), Mystique Way (65 acres with 4 lots sold), Gracelawn Rd. (four buildings-48 units) and a Residential Housing Unit (186 new residential units).

The City has not made a decision on the request for year round water at Taylor Pond.

October 17, 2018

Page 2

2019 DRAFT BUDGET - Changes have been made to the cover sheet provided in the Trustee packets relating to payroll, equipment and employee benefits. The revenue lines assume no growth which reflects a conservative approach. New customers are not considered in the proposed budget. Three year averages were used in most of the line items. The District is looking to replace three trucks but will not do so without Trustee support and authorization. A suggestion was made to separate out the payroll related to projects.

The Social Security COLA will be 2.8%. The draft budget does reflect a 2.8% COLA. The Cross Insurance PPO 2000 for 2019 includes a 2.9% increase. The out-of-pocket max increases from 4,000/8,000 to 4,500-9,000. We are investigating the possibility of offering an alternative plan. The salary survey and wages will be discussed in Executive Session.

A new Watershed Outreach employee has been hired. There will be a shift from school based to community based education.

Mr. Titus thought that we could possibly save on projects by paying an outside contractor.

Trustee K C Geiger thought that we should increase our yearly goal to two miles. The District has 16 miles of unlined cast iron pipe and 50-60 miles of brittle cement lined pipe still in the ground.

The District is looking at a potential rate increase in 2021.

OTHER BUSINESS –MEETINGS SCHEDULE

October 22nd – Joint Budget Workshop at 4:00pm-5:30pm
Employee Benefits Meeting at 5:45pm-6:45pm

Re-scheduled November Trustee Meetings:

November 13th Auburn Sewer District at 4:00pm
Auburn Water District at 5:30pm-6:30pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION PER 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) TO DISCUSS THE SALARY SURVEY AND WAGES.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Dan Bilodeau, it was voted: **To move into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) to discuss the salary survey and wages.** Vote 5-1 Tizz Crowley opposed.

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Dan Bilodeau, it was unanimously voted: **To come out of Executive Session.**

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Tizz Crowley, it was unanimously voted: **To adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Drinkwater

Approved: December 19, 2018

A true record:

Attest: _____

Clerk