

November 13, 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 Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 5:30pm.

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

Absent: Mike Broadbent, Assistant Superintendent

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2018 –

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Dan Bilodeau, it was voted: **To table the approval of the minutes of the October meeting.**

APPROVE MINUTES OF JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2018 –

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Dan Bilodeau it was voted: **To table the approval of the minutes of the October Joint Workshop meeting.**

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Mary Sylvester, it was unanimously voted: **To move the 2019 Draft Budget as first item of discussion.**

The draft budget incorporates a 2.9% increase in health premiums and a 2.8% COLA. The Salary Survey recommended step adjustment at a cost to the District of \$21,000 is also included.

For comparison, the Maine Municipal Association's increase in health premiums is 7% and they do not offer a separate tier for employee/spouse. In their plan the employee/spouse pays the same premium as the family. Trustee Tizz Crowley was in favor of staying with Cross Insurance. As Mary Sylvester pointed out, District salaries trail the market and are critical to recruiting and retaining qualified employees.

Superintendent Hazelton recommended: 2.8% COLA, Cross Insurance/2.9% increase and the \$21,000 in salary adjustments.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Tizz Crowley, it was unanimously voted: **To continue with the existing health insurance plan and to give careful consideration to alternate health options in early 2019.**

On motion of Mary Sylvester seconded by Tizz Crowley, it was unanimously voted: **To review the salaries of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.**

There was some discussion about what the District pays an employee as an incentive not to participate in the health benefit.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Tizz Crowley, it was voted: **To table the discussion.**

FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE – The District is projecting a positive budget variance of about \$72,000. Cash on hand is currently at \$628,000.

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 \$916,402.53 as shown on the printout dated October 1, 2018– October 31, 2018.**

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

ACTIVITY REPORT 1500' of pipe has been replaced by pipe bursting on Pionite Road. There are projects in progress on Talon Dr. and Mystique Way(off Minot Ave.). We have had a couple of water main breaks and conducting Fall flushing.

NEW BUSINESS

WATER QUALITY UPDATE - The cold water bloom of the algae Synura has generated some telephone calls about the water tasting like cucumbers. The shorter days and colder temperatures will help the situation, but it is hard to predict when the problem will be over. Superintendent Hazelton will reach out to consultants for some assistance.

PROJECT UPDATE- The two Hardscrabble reservoirs were drained and cleaned on October 22nd. The Poland tank was also cleaned and the Goff Hill reservoir was drained on November 6.

BOARD CONSENSUS - Tabled

EXECUTIVE SESSION PER 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET-

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Andrew Titus, it was unanimously voted: **To move into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) to further discuss the budget.**

On motion of Robert Cavanagh, seconded by Preston Chapman, it was unanimously voted: **To come out of Executive Session.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION PER 1 M.R.S.A § 405 405 (6) (C) TO DISCUSS AN UPDATE TO A LITIGATION CASE.

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Mary Sylvester, it was unanimously voted: **To move into Executive Session to discuss an update to a litigation case.**

The meeting came out of Executive Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Drinkwater

Approved: December 19, 2018

A true record:

Attest: _____

Clerk