

July 22, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Trustees of the Auburn Water District was held at the Auburn Senior Community Center on July 22, 2020 at 4:00pm.

Members present: Dan Bilodeau, Robert Cavanagh, K. C. Geiger, Stephen Milks, President, Mayor's Representative, Jason Pawlina, Mary Sylvester and Andy Titus, Treasurer. Also present: Sid Hazelton, Superintendent, Michael Broadbent, Assistant Superintendent and Tanya Dunn, Finance Manager.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by K.C. Geiger, it was unanimously voted: **To move into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E) for consultation with legal counsel.**

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of June 17, 2020 –

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Andrew Titus, it was unanimously voted: **To accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting as amended.**

FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE –

Water gallons sold is down 5.5% year to date which results in approximately \$90,000 below anticipated revenues with the rate increase. Expenses overall are favorable \$19,000 and payroll is up about \$8,000 which is offset by the numerous items which are under budget. Cash on hand at the end of June was \$1,003,248.77.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Jason Pawlina it was unanimously voted: **To accept the Audit of 2019 from R. H. R. Smith.**

RATIFY PAYMENT OF BILLS –

On motion of Robert Cavanagh, seconded by Jason Pawlina it was voted 6 in favor, 1 abstention: **To ratify payment of bills in the amount of \$281,583.42 as shown on the printout dated June 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020.**

The District received a \$3,685 Workers Comp and Property & Casualty Insurance refund for low claims. There was unanimous consensus of the Board to use up to \$500 of the refund for employee recognition.

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

ACTIVITY REPORT – There was a leak on Broadview Avenue in front of an Auburn Housing Authority building. As the District started to isolate the leak, multiple leaks occurred on the service lines to the Housing Authority buildings.

There were ATVs driving on Watershed land illegally. The trails were blocked.

NEW BUSINESS

COST APPORTIONMENT FOR GULL MANAGEMENT CONTRACT – June's discussion resulted in a 5:2 vote to become a third party of the Gull Management Contract between Lewiston and the USDA.

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After the June 17, 2020 Board meeting, President Milks contacted Kevin Gagne, Lewiston's Deputy Director of Water & Sewer, to inform him not to count on AWD paying 50% of the Gull Management Contract. At that point the contract lapsed for a two-week period. Lewiston has since signed the contract and water protection efforts have been reinstated.

Andrew Titus stated the District signed an agreement to pay 50% of all Water Quality efforts.

On motion of Dan Bilodeau, seconded by Andrew Titus, it was discussed to pay 40% of the Gull Management Contract.

K.C. Geiger stated that the Lewiston Water Division and AWD are two parties trying to protect the water quality of the public drinking water supply.

Dan Bilodeau withdrew his motion.

On motion of Andrew Titus, seconded by Mary Sylvester it was unanimously voted: **To have staff contact the Lewiston Water Division to re-negotiate the cost sharing of the 1999 Water Quality Interlocal Agreement to be reflective of water usage rather than 50-50 split.**

On motion of Andrew Titus, seconded by Mary Sylvester it was unanimously voted: **To amend the above motion to include all interlocal agreements in the negotiation.**

PIPE REPLACEMENT STRATEGY AND OPTONS FOR FINANCING – Superintendent Hazelton began his presentation which led to some discussion.

Dan Bilodeau stated the District had a 14% rate increase earlier this year and increasing pipe replacement from two to three miles doubles the cost and suggested that we slow down and keep costs low.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Robert Cavanagh, it was unanimously voted: **To table the Pipe Replacement Strategy and Options for Financing until the Regular August Trustee Meeting.**

REVIEW OF THE BY-LAWS FOR PROTECTION OF LAKE AUBURN - DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD APPROVED CHARGE TO COMMITTEE –

On motion of Mary Sylvester seconded by Andrew Titus it was unanimously voted: **To appoint a task force of three Trustees and the Superintendent to draft a charge, action steps and a time line to bring back to the Board in August for the review of the by-laws for the Protection of Lake Auburn.**

There are many legal stakeholders that may scrutinize the by-laws for the protection of the Lake. The Board must vote on a review process and follow it.

LAWPC COMMISSION BOARD APPOINTMENT – DISCUSSION OF PROCESS TO FILL VACANCY – A vacancy on the Commission will open at the end of this month.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Jason Pawlina, it was unanimously voted: **To eliminate the nominating committee from the LAWPC application process and replace it with the Auburn Water District Board.**

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The Board will review applications as they come in and invite qualified applicants to the regular monthly meeting in August. Open session will be moved to the beginning of the meeting to allow applicants to speak. There will be an executive session immediately following open session to discuss applicants.

Send all Trustees the list of current Commissioners with term dates.

WATER QUALITY UPDATE – Water quality is good, turbidity is low, secci disk readings are good and phosphorus levels are good. Lead and copper testing passed with flying colors. The MaineDEP has put out a warning of potential algae blooms this year.

PROJECT UPDATE – The Holly and Josslyn Street main replacements are complete. Fern Street is prepped and will begin in a few weeks. The Rochelle and Winter Street projects will begin in the next few weeks.

HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE – The balance funded health care plan the District enrolled in splits the surplus, if any, at year end. The surplus through the end of June was \$27,426.

OLD BUSINESS –

AUBURN MAYOR REQUEST FOR PAYEMNT IN LIEU OF TAXES – Superintendent Hazelton polled other districts for similar requests. Brunswick/Topsham has been asked and they did not comply. When the Portland Water District bought Gorham Water District it was agreed that the District pay the City of Gorham \$2,150 annually.

Jason Pawlina would like to ask the City if the District could partner with the City on a project in lieu of payment.

Andrew Titus stated that payment in lieu in taxes is typically used in college towns when students use many services offered by the town.

Stephen Milks will inform the Mayor that the District is unable to make a payment in lieu of taxes but in good spirit is working for the best interest of the rate payers.

TRUSTEE OPEN SESSION

Future agenda item to understand the City's workgroup studying the cost of water service.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Jason Pawlina it was unanimously voted: **To adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,



Tanya Dunn

Approved: August 19, 2020

A true record:

Attest: _____



Clerk