

November 16, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Trustees of the Auburn Sewerage District was held in person at the Auburn Sewerage District office at 268 Court Street on Tuesday November 16, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

Members present: Robert Cavanagh , Charles Sheehan, Stephen Ness (President), Andrew Titus and Raymond Fortier (Treasurer) and Stephen Milks, Mayor's Representative. Also present: Sid Hazelton, Superintendent, Michael Broadbent, Assistant Superintendent and Tanya Dunn, Finance Manager.

Absent: Shawn MacDonald

On motion of Charles Sheehan, seconded by Stephen Milks, it was unanimously voted: **To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2021.**

FINANCIAL REPORT – Gallons sold are up 4% year to date with revenues being favorable by \$75,000. Overall expenses are favorable by \$50,000. Cash on hand at the end of October was at \$1.4 million.

RATIFY PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Robert Cavanagh, seconded by Raymond Fortier, it was unanimously voted: **To ratify the payment of bills in the amount of \$219,332.48 dated October 1, 2021 -October 31 2021.**

OPEN SESSION - K.C.Geiger, Water District Trustee, was in attendance.

ACTIVITY REPORT –The crew has been wrapping up maintenance work. There was a sewer back up issue on Coolidge St. which required some extensive investigation. There were roots and blockage on the owner's service.

The Washington Street pump station is on the priority list for replacement and may need to be re-located in the future. It has a band-aid for the time being. It would cost about \$20,000 to replace the pump.

There have been three big rain events and all storms were contained by the recently closed CSO #005 without overflow.

PROJECT UPDATES -

The Hotel Road project went well. The force main has been replaced and activated. The plan was to pipe burst but the new main was too close to the old main to do so. Longchamps and Sons assisted us with the work. The new main was installed on top of the old force main.

W-6 Project – Parts and pumps have been ordered and the control panel is near completion. The station should be upgraded by year end.

Pratt & Sons will be working through the winter on the Poland sewer extension project.

MOWING SERVICES – The District received three bids for a 4-year Mowing Contract. Goodscapes was the low bidder at an even lower price than the previous contract. We have added some Spring cleanup here at the District office and at Hardscrabble to the contract..

On motion of Charles Sheehan, seconded by Stephen Milks, it was unanimously voted: **To award the Mowing Services bid to Goodscapes for a 4-year Contract.**

LAWPCA APPORTIONMENT & FINANCIALS – The board adjusted the apportionment from 63/37 to 62/38 for the remaining two months of the year to bring the numbers more in line with budget projection.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT – It looks like there will be future money available for a variety of water and wastewater projects in the State-run SRF programs with most of it to be used for principle forgiveness. There may also be money available in the form of Grants which is great news for both Districts.

It was agreed there would be more discussion once the details of the available funds are laid out.

STORMWATER SURGE TANK DESIGN UPDATE – This will be a \$25 million endeavor and we are in the process of determining how to fund the tank. The Apportionment Study is at 70/30 with the Sewer District looking at about \$8 million.

Superintendent Hazelton will draft a memo to the City Council requesting monies from the \$14 million ARPA funds that the City has received to apply to the stormwater surge tank project.

The possibility of raising user rates for the next four to five years to eliminate bond debt was discussed. We would be looking at single digit increases starting in 2023. We do have some bonds dropping off in the next few years. When the time comes we would look at all options and choose the best possible one to fit our needs. We will likely need a small single digit sewer rate increase in 2023 to keep up with inflation.

Woodard and Curran was hired to do the preliminary work on the tank.

2022 DRAFT BUDGET -

There is no increase in health premiums and the LAWPCA budget has been updated. The 2022 budget reflects a 5.9% COLA.

A discussion was had on how to keep our good employees from seeking other employment. Stephen Milks suggested the possibility of a retention bonus. Mr. Titus recommended add another \$26,000 (equivalent to the 5.9% COLA) as a separate line item for employee compensation (potential bonuses, compensation, retention)

On motion of Andrew Titus, seconded by Stephen Milks, it was unanimously voted: **To set a place holder of \$26,000 as a separate line item to be used at a later date for employee retention.**

This will be done only if also approved by the Water District Trustees.

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE - The schedule was included in the packet.

On motion of Stephen Milks, seconded by Charles Sheehan, it was unanimously voted: **To adjourn the meeting**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Drinkwater

Approved: December 14, 2021

A true record:

Attest: _____

Clerk