

August 16, 2017

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 August 16, 2017 at 4:00pm.

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

Absent: Andrew Titus

OPEN SESSION – John Brocke and Kevin Arel were in attendance to discuss opening up the Spring Rd. trail to snowmobiles. Trustee Dan Bilodeau joined them in their request. Superintendent Hazelton told them that this issue would be discussed further at a public meeting to be hosted by the Neighborhood Watch Group on September 6 at the West Auburn Congregational Church.

On motion of Preston Chapman, seconded by Robert Cavanagh, it was unanimously voted: **To accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 19, 2017.**

FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE – The forecast is that the District will make budget at year end. There were a couple of expensive repairs to trucks. Cash on hand will be about \$800,000 at year end. The 2016 Audit Report has been posted on the District's website.

RATIFY PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Robert Cavanagh, seconded by Preston Chapman, it was unanimously voted: **To ratify the payment of bills in the amount of \$270,997.29 as shown on the printout dated July 1, 2017 – July 31, 2017.**

ACTIVITY REPORT – The bulk of the water main replacement work has been completed. The crews have been adjusting gates on Park Avenue. We have been and will be flushing hydrants in the system throughout the summer. The number of shut-offs for delinquency has decreased by about 30%. Trustee Tizz Crowley asked for an update on the in-house inventory.

NEW BUSINESS

WATER QUALITY UPDATE – The lake is in great shape and trending well. Spikes in turbidity due to algae are typical in the Fall. Bates College interns, under Mary Jane Dillingham's direction, harvested a truckload of milfoil from the Basin Brook. Grant money will fund the Townsend Brook Study by Sevee & Mahar Engineers to investigate land use patterns. They plan to use a drone equipped with a camera to investigate remote areas not accessible by land. We should have a report at the next meeting.

PROJECT UPDATE – The main replacement on Lake St. between Shepley and Fern is nearly complete. Once the sewer replacement on Lake St. between Shepley & Fern is complete, the crew will move on to the Pine/Pearl neighborhood. This project will cost more to the District because we will have to pay for the paving as these streets are not part of City reconstruction

WORK ORDER SYSTEM – We continue to develop our electronic work order system. Several employees have been using the system to record their hours. It has an inventory link which will eliminate redundancy. Eventually, all employees will be using the system to record their hours and materials use.

AUDITOR – The District received notification that our auditor, Horton, McFarland & Veysey, will no long be providing us with auditing services. They also serviced LAWPCA. We will consider a joint bid for next year.

LAWPC ASSIGNMENT OF COMMISSIONERS – There are nine Commissioners:

- Three - Auburn
- Three - Lewiston
- One – Turner
- One- Buckfield, Minot, Hebron
- One-AVCOG

Normand Lamie told Superintendent Hazelton that AVCOG served as a liason to a lot of towns connected to the watershed. Trustee Tizz Crowley sees no value in the AVCOG representation. She feels the ninth seat should be appointed by the Auburn City Council. She suggested a work group to review the by-laws. This should be addressed at the September 13th meeting. There should be a provision to review the by-laws every five years.

FLUORIDE – A petition is circulating to request the removal of fluoride treatment. Jessica Hutchinson has until July 9, 2018 to get the needed 1229 signatures to get on the ballot. It would cost \$150,000 to shut off the fluoride on our own. If done jointly with Lewiston it would be easier and simpler. It was suggested that we post some sort of informational page hi-lighting the pros and cons of fluoride.

OLD BUSINESS

911 COMMUNICATIONS TOWER / UPDATE - The agreement is still under review. We continue to hammer out the details and hope to have a signed agreement soon.

MODIFIED OFFICE HOURS PROPOSAL – Trustee Tizz Crowley voted to table for more discussion following two failed votes. She feels there may be worker’s compensation issues with allowing the combination of breaks and lunch for a full one hour lunch period. What about customer service and public impact? Trustee Dan Bilodeau asked what the sewer Trustees had decided. He was told that it was left up to the administration to make the decision.

On motion of Mary Sylvester, seconded by Preston Chapman, it was voted : **To empower Superintendent Hazelton to check with all the necessary entities before making a final decision on the modification of office hours.** Trustee Tizz Crowley opposed


EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS OF POTENTIAL PROPERTY TRANSACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

On motion of Preston Chapman, seconded by Robert Cavanagh, it was voted: **To move into EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS OF POTENTIAL PROPERTY TRANSACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).**

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


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

Respectfully submitted,


Diane Drinkwater

A true record:

Attest: _____


Clerk

Approved: September 20, 2017