

November 15, 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 November 15, 2017 at 4:00pm.

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

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Mary Sylvester, it was unanimously voted: **To move the budget discussion to the first agenda item.**

**FY 2018 SECOND DRAFT BUDGET** – Superintendent Hazelton is confident that there will be growth in revenues over FY 2017 with a full year at the new rate schedule. He said that we typically follow suit with the Social Security COLA which will be 2% for the year 2018. He reviewed the other benefits with most of the discussion being about the health insurance plan. Cross Insurance is having an increase of 14.46%. The Maine Municipal Association increase is 6%. Superintendent Hazelton recommends that we stay with Cross Insurance for 2018 and consider our options again for the 2019 budget. We are at a higher deductible with Cross Insurance and, even with the increase, the District will still see a savings of about \$44,000 in 2018 over the old MMA PPO-500 Plan. Some of the Trustees suggested we look at the MMA PPO-1500 Plan.

Equipment Budget – We are currently renting a Volvo Excavator. Chadwick-Baross has agreed to apply our 2017 rental costs towards the purchase of the excavator. The purchase terms are 5 annual payments of \$31,960 with the 1<sup>st</sup> payment due in November 2018.

Capital Improvements - Mr. Titus would like to see what projects have actually been completed this year along with the footage of pipe installed.

Trustee Mary Sylvester feels that it is very important to gain public trust by explaining to them how the District dollars are spent. We must do long range projections and not spend what we don't have which results in rate increases. She suggested strategic discussions after the first of the year.

December 5<sup>th</sup> had been reserved as a workshop to discuss wages and benefits. Trustee Tizz Crowley encouraged the Board to hold the workshop at 4:00pm Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Mary Sylvester, it was unanimously voted: **To accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 18, 2017.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE** –Revenues are down. Greg is still thinking that we may not make budget. Cash on hand is at \$800,000.

#### **RATIFY PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Robert Cavanagh, seconded by Tizz Crowley, it was unanimously voted: **To ratify the payment of bills in the amount of \$894,333.35 as shown on the printout dated October 1, 2017 – October 31, 2017.**

**OPEN SESSION** - Trustee Tizz Crowley took the opportunity to speak about the meeting held at LAWPC with regards to opening the middle and south gates on the Spring Rd. She referred to two documents: 1992 Right of Access and one in 1993 which referred to not disturbing vegetation. She suggested a work group to review the documents.

**ACTIVITY REPORT** - We had a few water main breaks: Poland Rd., Turner St., and Sixth St.. The Leak on Center St. belonged to Lewiston. We have installed 4500' pipe this year. The wind/storm event of October 30<sup>th</sup> hit sewer the

hardest. We had to continually go from pump station to pump station with generators because of the loss of power. We are hoping to get some FEMA money to recoup some of the expenses incurred as a result of the storm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WATER QUALITY UPDATE** –It has been a good year for water quality. The docks will be removed soon and the winter buoys will be put in place. Holly Ewing will give a report regarding her research on Gleotrichia and Steve Norton will provide an update on the results of the core sampling project at the next LAWPCA meeting. The time and date of the presentations will be announced in advance so Trustees and the public can attend.

**PROJECT UPDATE** - This year's projects have been completed. The District is doing winter maintenance and paving holes needing attention. We will be replacing water gates at intersections where future projects are planned.

**911 COMMUNICATIONS TOWER / UPDATE** - The Lease has been signed and the tower is to be installed this fall.

**AUDITOR** – We have received four proposals.

On motion of Preston Chapman, seconded by Dan Bilodeau, it was unanimously voted: **To award the bid for auditing services to RHR Smith of Buxton, Maine for the next three years.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Diane Drinkwater*  
Diane Drinkwater

Approved: December 20, 2017

A true record:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*  
Clerk