

January 16, 2019

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, January 16, 2019 at 4:00pm.

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of December 19, 2018 -

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Mary Sylvester, it was voted: **To unanimously accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting with amendments from Tizz Crowley.**

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING of December 19, 2018 -

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Mary Sylvester it was voted: **To unanimously accept the minutes of the Joint Meeting with amendments from Tizz Crowley.**

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING December 19, 2018 -

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Mary Sylvester, it was voted: **To unanimously accept the minutes of the Public Hearing.**

FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE - The District finished the year ahead of budget by \$116,000 before audit adjustments. Cash on hand is currently at \$574,000.

RATIFY THE PAYMENT OF BILLS -

On motion of Dan Bilodeau, seconded by Bob Cavanagh it was unanimously voted: **To ratify the payment of bills in the amount of \$333,034.93 as shown on the printout dated December 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018.**

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

ACTIVITY REPORT - The District has been busy keeping hydrants in working order. With the earlier than normal freezing temperatures, this season started off a bit unprepared.

NEW BUSINESS

WATER QUALITY UPDATE – Ice is good for water quality. The ice cover limits sun which algae likes. An alum treatment in Lake Auburn in mid-late Summer, possibly early Fall, could help minimize future algae blooms.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT AND IMPACT ON RATES – Superintendent Hazelton explained that to continue replacing 1.5 miles of pipe per year it would take 43 years and would require a 5.5% rate increase. Replacing 3 miles of bad pipe per year would take 21.5 years and require a 28% rate increase. It was the consensus to continue pipe replacement at 1.5 miles per year for this upcoming

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Summer and increase to 2 miles in 2020. Trustee Geiger said “in an ideal world, 3 miles of pipe would be replaced each year.” Mayor Levesque supports the effort to ‘get ahead of infrastructure even if it means a rate increase.’

PROJECT UPDATE – Projects are wrapped up and the District installed 1.7 miles of pipe in 2018. We are preparing for projects this Summer and planning to install 1.5 miles of new water main.

AUBURN MAYOR AD HOC COMMITTEE-Mayor Levesque is creating a committee made up of 4 representatives from Auburn and 4 from Lewiston with a charge to find potable water with a balance of water quality and the recreation of a great pond. This committee will not be politicized.

The committee will also look for ways to encourage commercial use in downtown.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE – Heidi is willing to stay on the committee, however, she is very busy the first two months of the year. Another member from the sewer board could possibly be present in her absence. The first meeting of the year will be February 7th.

OLD BUSINESS

VALVE OPERATOR AND VACUUM UNIT-This is a budget item. The staff looked at two options and Mike Broadbent recommended the unit from E. H. Wachs Co. at the bid price of \$67,000.

On motion of Tizz Crowley, seconded by Dan Bilodeau it was voted: **To unanimously accept the staff recommendation for the purchase of the valve operator and vacuum unit.**

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE-There is great information on the City’s website and all are encouraged to check it out.

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


Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Johnson

Approved: February 20, 2019

A true record:

Attest: _____


Clerk