
Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

October 16, 2023, Regular Meeting

Buck Foreman Community Center – Second Floor

265 Main Street, Portland, CT

Members Present: Jim Nursick, Jim Tripp, Dave Kuzminski, Dick Cote

Absent: Jim McCabe

Also Present: Ryan O’Halpin, Public Works Director; Ralph Zampano, Board of Selectman;

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Jim Tripp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

2. **Review & Approve Minutes of September 11, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Chairman Jim Tripp entertained motions to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023, meeting. Jim Nursick noted a correction to the September 11 minutes to remove “from MDC” in Paragraph 4. A motion was made by Jim Nursick to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Dave Kuzminski to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

3. **Correspondence and Communication:** None

4. **Report from Director**

Ryan O’Halpin noted that the total usage for September was 20 million gallons total, 12.8 million gallons from MDC. The well was shut off starting on 9/13/23 to hit the minimum in our take or pay contract with MDC. The well level at the end of September was 9 feet and not being used. Ryan O’Halpin noted that will need to take near 100% of usage, average of 19 million gallons per month, from MDC October-December to hit our minimum.

5. **Old Business**

a. Development of an Alternate Water Source: Ryan O’Halpin spoke with GZA and was told that Hazen & Sawyer, who is developing the final report, will be in touch with questions. Report for next steps in development. First invoice was paid in September.

b. Maintenance:

i. Water System:

Hilltop Drive water main replacement is underway, hit rock $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the hill, still on schedule.

Perry Ave water main, pressure test this week, services done late week, repave road next week. Gas main for Brainerd to follow.

Russell Ave bids come back tomorrow, 10/17 at 11am.

STEAP grant awarded for High St water main going towards William St. Waiting on Jacobson’s estimate for design.

ii. Sewer System:

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Secondary Clarifier upgrades was awarded to CH Nickerson last month, work should begin next week.

Coe Ave pump station upgrades bid is due back 10/24 at 11am.

c. Meter Updates, Budget Rates: No updates.

6. Committee Reports/General Discussion: None

7. Public Comment: Ciara Lundell of 13 Sunset Terrace stated that the house being sold at 19R Freestone Ave had a septic tank failure on the buyer's inspection. Quotes received were approx. \$68,000 for sewer connection and \$25,000 for a new septic tank. Ryan O'Halpin stated that if sewer is available, it is policy to connect. The septic replacement would need engineered drawings and soil samples to be taken to Chatham Health for review, which was not included in the estimate. The sewer connection estimate also seemed high. It was recommended the homeowners continue to get more quotes to connect to sewer as that is the policy. Ryan O'Halpin was going to get them more information on the service line for 19 Freestone.

8. Adjournment

Dick Cote made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Nursick. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2023

Respectfully,

Ryan O'Halpin