
Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

January 9, 2023, Regular Meeting

Buck Foreman Community Center – Second Floor

265 Main Street, Portland, CT

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

Absent:

Also Present: Ryan O’Halpin, Public Works Director, Ralph Zampano, Board of Selectman;
Devon Arce, Revenue Collection Assistant

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 December 12, 2022, Regular Meeting**

Jim Tipp entertained motions to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022, regular meeting. Jim Nursick made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction: It should read: *minutes of November 2022 meeting*. Jim McCabe seconded. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

3. **Correspondence and Communication:** None

4. **Report from Director**

Ryan O’Halpin reported on MDC end of year data. The usage was up during December; 2.5 million gallons over the contract. This was due to not being able to run the well during the drought. The well level has recovered to 8.5 feet.

5. **Old Business**

a. Development of an Alternate Water Source: Ryan O’Halpin stated that GZA (water management services vendor) visited four sites during December, including Wangunk Meadows WMA (the area north of the fairgrounds), YMCA, the Portland Golf Course, and the Route 17 park. Chairman Tripp asked about the possibility of a roundtable discussion with GZA. Ryan O’Halpin indicated that they (GZA) are still gathering information.

b. Maintenance:

i. Water System: Ryan O’Halpin noted a main line service repair last week at 505 Main Street, in which Eversource was involved. A galvanized threaded piece had become corroded. There were several valves (6-7) that were not working. The repair was completed, and water service restored after an hour of work. He noted that the service line was fixed, but it needs to be replaced, along with others on Main Street. There are new lead and copper testing requirements. By October 2024, Ryan O’Halpin must provide a detailed materials inventory, including type of material, date of installation, etc. Everyone in town must be informed about dangers of lead in water. Lead and copper tests are conducted in 20 locations every three years.

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Chairman Tripp asked about budgeting for valve replacement. Mr. O’Halpin stated that he would like to get another employee, plus funds for mainline valve replacement (at least 4-5 valves). There was discussion about the cost/possibility of having a town crew replace valves, including line stop machine, manpower, etc.

ii. Sewer System: Ryan O’Halpin stated that a purchase order has been sent to Wright-Pierce Environmental Engineering for engineering on the clarifier tanks at WPCF. He noted that a 20 year upgrade to the plant was last done 23 years ago. Wright Pierce estimated another full plant upgrade would cost approx. \$25,000,000 if done this year. There was discussion about the plans for Brainard Place. There will be one meter per building, although if a building has commercial and residential usage, there will be separate meters for commercial and residential.

c. Meter Updates: Chairman Tripp asked about the audit to determine the cost benefit of replacing/upgrading meters. Ryan O’Halpin noted he will review the audit information.

d. Budget/Rates: Savings can be achieved by doing work ourselves.

6. **Committee Reports/General Discussion:** The RFQ (Request for Qualifications) deadline for the Russell Avenue water and sewer project(s) is January 18. Allen Street may possibly be included (depending of cost) Ryan O’Halpin stated that he will review the RFQ information and select consultants to draft proposals.

7. **Public Comment:** Ralph Zampano asked about the MDC overage: 2.5 million gallons. Usage from November to December was up approximately 1 million gallons.

8. Adjournment

Dave Kuzminski made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dick Cote. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Jon D’Arpino

Board Clerk