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# Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

September 12, 2022, Special Joint Meeting with Board of Selectman

Buck Foreman Community Center – Second Floor

265 Main Street, Portland, CT

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

**Absent:**

**Also Present:** Ryan Curley, Portland First Selectman; Portland Board of Selectman Members (Michael Pelton, Robert Hetrick, Jr., Ralph Zampano, Shaun Manning): Ryan O’Halpin, Public Works Director; Mike Lastrina, Public Works

## 1. Call to Order

Chair Jim Tripp called the special joint meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

## 2. Presentation on Hamtramck Water Reading

Dave Kuzminski introduced Paul Dellaripa, Water Meter Specialist, F.W. Webb Company. Mr. Dellaripa spoke briefly about the advantages of digital water meters and the return on investment to be gained by their use. He introduced Dan McGuire, Regional Sales Manager NE, Kamstrup Water Metering.

Mr. McGuire provided an overview of the Kamstrup Water Metering company. He noted that they are the largest provider of ultrasonic metering technology globally. He stated that accuracy of water meters has a significant effect on revenue and noted that Kamstrup meters don’t contact the water flow and have a low failure rate (less than 1/2 percent). Mr. McGuire noted that water loss is a huge problem and are caused by water leaks (services lines, water main breaks, etc.). The Kamstrup meters were designed and developed in partnership with customers. The meters have acoustic leak technology (ALD) which can quickly identify trouble areas within a system and monitor systems 24/7 for 5/8 –1” lines. Mr. McGuire stated it is the most comprehensive leak detection system available. Breaks beneath the surface can be detected and from a great distance.

Mr. McGuire noted that under registration of meters is a significant cause of revenue loss. Kamstrup provides much greater accuracy particularly for low flow. The average household water loss is 10,000 gallons per year. Kamstrup meters can measure down to 0.01 gpm (gallons per minute). Revenue saving of approximately \$1.5 million can be achieved over 20 years. The Kamstrup meters feature a dual radio configuration. Kamstrups’ AMI fixed network architecture provides 24 reads a day, which provides the ability to identify leaks early and take a proactive approach. The meters also feature adaptive battery control, which enables radio power to be dialed down to conserve the battery and extend the meter life. The meters have an integrated design and use three software platforms: READY, Leak Detection, and Customer Portal.

There was a discussion about cost of implementation and the cost per customer. Mr. Dellaripa stated that the cost to install the Kamstrup meters would be 15-20 percent less than normal. He noted that the town would only require two collectors, which will help keep the cost down.

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## 3. **Review & Approve Minutes of August 8, 2022, Regular Meeting**

Jim Tripp entertained motions to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2022, regular meeting. Dick Cote made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Nursick seconded. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

## 4. **Correspondence and Communication**

Jim Tripp noted that he had a conversation with the First Selectman regarding aged receivables. He introduced Ryan O’Halpin, new Public Works Director.

## 5. **Report from Director**

Chairman Jim Tripp noted that a lack of resources has been challenge but installing new meters would be a good investment and would free up some resources for maintenance. He stressed that a discussion on long-term needs, including is necessary.

Mr. O’Halpin noted that the well didn’t run during the month of August due to lack of rainfall. The well has started running again. One of the water main vales on Coe Avenue will be replaced next Monday (9/19).

Michael Lastrina stated that leaks need to be fixed as they surface to minimize revenue loss. Mr. O’Halpin stated that it may be possible to install new meters and address the existing maintenance concerns at the same time.

## 6. **Old Business**

**a. Development of an Alternate Water Source:** Chairman Tripp stated that the town is awaiting signoff from DPH but there were language changes required per the review from the Attorney General’s office.

### **b. Maintenance:**

**i. Water System:** A valve on Coe Avenue (6” main valve) will be replaced on Monday, 9/19.

### **ii. Sewer System:**

**c. Meter Updates:** This topic was covered in the presentation and subsequent discussion.

**d. Budget/Rates:** Mr. O’Halpin noted that the town is already at 112,000,000 gallons. Jim Nursick noted that there had previously been a discussion about potentially raising rates for water haulers. Dave Kuzminski stated that he would reach out to Connecticut Water to see what their bulk rates are. He noted that some other communities have imposed a moratorium on water haulers due to lower-than-normal water levels.

## 7. **Committee Reports/General Discussion:** None

## 8. **Public Comment:** None

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## 9. Adjournment

Jim McCabe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Kuzminzski. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

**Next Meeting: October 17, 2022**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jon D'Arpino*

Board Clerk