

Town of Portland
Water and Sewer Commission
June 20, 2022
Special Meeting
7:00 PM
Buck Foreman Community Center – 2nd Floor

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

Absent:

Also Present: Public Works Director Robert Shea, Ralph Zampano - Liaison from the Board of Selectmen

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jim Tripp called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2022 REGULAR MEETING

Jim McCabe made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 regular meeting. Dave Kuzminski seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

Dave Kuzminski made a motion to approve tonight's agenda. Dick Cote seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

Monthly Production Data, Groundwater Level Monitoring Report and EML testing information was made available to the Commission by Public Works Director Bob Shea.

5.. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR

Public Works Director Bob Shea reviewed the reports for the Commission.

He stated that we continue to follow MDC and well water usage each month and we are doing very well. We will see more usage during the dryer summer months. He has developed a formula to stay on budget with the required MDC usage.

We had a great year last year only using 200,000 gallons more than our contracted usage with MDC.

Bob explained the Groundwater Level Monitoring Report. It shows the status of the well including water level elevation and water level pumping rates. He explained how he compiles the data used for the report.

Bob said information from the EML lab reports are used for the yearly water quality report. He said the numbers have remained consistent over the past few years.

Bob advised the Commission that we are working with DPH on PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl Substance) testing. We have asked EML to test our source well this month. There is no actual standard for testing at this time but the state is recommending it.

Bob answered questions of the Commission members.

Bob Shea officially left the position of Public Works Director on June 17th. He thanked the Commission for all of their support during his years as Director. He said the Commission has a lot of work to do and that it's very critical to stay on task to expand on what needs to be done.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Jim Tripp asked Bob Shea if there were any further developments on the contract for GZA for the water source exploration project. Bob said there was communication back from the state last week and they had a few additional questions. He believes that First Selectman Curley got back to them but he hasn't heard anything further.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Tripp explained the new listings on the agenda which are meant to start and continue conversations on items which need discussions. He stated that he recently met with First Selectman Curley and Bob Shea and they felt that these are the items they wish to track on a continuing basis.

a. Development of an Alternate Water Source

Previously discussed

b. Maintenance

i. Water System

Bob reported that there was a water main break this past Saturday. It was an asbestos pipe that was scheduled to be replaced.

ii. Sewer System

The retainage project was very successful and was completed about 6 months ago. The next scheduled project is the Coe Ave. pump station. An additional project that needs to be looked at this year is installing new clarifiers for the tanks. After the tanks would be installing more efficient blowers.

Bob added that it is very important over time that the board continue to fund sewer cleaning and inspections.

c. Meter Updates

Bob stated that new meters are being installed faster than he can buy them. He just bought 35 new meters and half of them are already installed. The new meters are working well and are less labor intensive.

Discussion ensued regarding a previous presentation regarding telemetry reading and the advantages and cost effectiveness of the program.

d. Budget/Rates

Bob Shea said the biggest issue with the budget right now is overtime. He tried to keep as much overtime money in the water budget as possible.

Dave Kuzminski stated that we need to tighten up on collecting delinquent accounts.

Bob Shea added that implementing the credit card system has been a positive tool for collections.

Jim Tripp said that we have to stay on top of the rates. We may be OK at this point but we need to track it carefully.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS/GENERAL DISCUSSION

Jim Tripp stated that if any member of the Commission would like to add any other points for the discussion to let him know. He wants to use the agenda to track the activity in both divisions.

Jim also thanked Bob Shea for all of the work he has done over the past four years.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralph Zampano from the Board of Selectman commented that the Board would have a special meeting if necessary to further the progress of the additional water source project.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Dick Cote made a motion to adjourn. Jim Nursick seconded. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

NEXT MEETING - July 11, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl H. Creem

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Board Clerk/Administrative Assistant