
Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

February 12, 2024, Regular Meeting

Buck Foreman Community Center – Second Floor

265 Main Street, Portland, CT

Members Present: Jim Nursick, Dave Kuzminski, Dick Cote, Jim McCabe, Rick Sharr

Absent:

Also Present: Ryan O’Halpin, Public Works Director; Jim Tripp, Selectman; Ralph Zampano

1. **Call to Order**

Dick Cote called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

2. **Review & Approve Minutes of January 8, 2024, Meeting**

A motion was made by Jim McCabe, seconded by Jim Nursick to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, meeting. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

3. **Election of a New Chairperson:** Deferred to the March meeting.

4. **Correspondence and Communication:** None

5. **Report from Director**

Ryan O’Halpin stated that 18 million gallons were used last month; 8.1 million gallons received from MDC (\$46,500); 10.3 million gallons from the well. The well level was at 9.5 feet. A flow monitoring system will be installed at the well and at the Bartlett Street station. The system will use MDC radio antennas.

6. **Old Business**

a. Development of an Alternate Water Source: Ryan O’Halpin noted that he received a draft of the final report from GZA and Hazen and Sawyer. The estimate for construction of a new 12” gravel-packed well (sited at the north end of the RT17 park) is \$1.1 million, and \$820,000 for engineering. The well treatment cost (which is not necessarily needed) was estimated at \$6-10 million. The wetland survey will be \$10,000. Level A mapping will be \$50,000. The water quality test is \$25,000; reports are \$80,000. The town is not obligated to use GZA although the window of opportunity to find another engineering firm is short. Ideally, the new well needs to be operational by the end of the year.

A new diversion permit application with MDC is approved. Since MDC will be the backup water source. A new minimum contract will need to be negotiated.

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b. Maintenance:

i. Water System

- The **Russell Avenue project** construction will start at the end of March (Burns Construction).

ii. Sewer System: The clarifier project at the sewer plant is progressing. The tenting will be removed, and the coating will be completed.

- **Coe Avenue and Riverview Pump station:** Flange pipes will be extended.

c. Meter Updates, Budget Rates: Ryan O’Halpin noted the cost to change meters is \$290 per meter, \$400,000. Rates have not changed. An additional employee has been requested; requires budget approval.

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

8. **Public Comment:** None

9. Adjournment

Dick Cote made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Jon D’Arpino
Board Clerk