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# Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

March 11, 2024, Regular Meeting

Buck Foreman Community Center – Second Floor

265 Main Street, Portland, CT

**Members Present:** Jim Nursick, Dave Kuzminski, Jim McCabe, Rick Sharr

**Absent:** Dick Cote

**Also Present:** Ryan O’Halpin, Public Works Director; Jim Tripp, outgoing Chairman; Ralph Zampano, Devon Arce, Revenue Collection Assistant, Water and Sewer Department

## 1. Call to Order

Rick Sharr called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

## 2. Review & Approve Minutes of February 12, 2024, Meeting

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

## 3. Election of a New Chairperson: Rick Sharr was nominated as Chair by Jim McCabe, Jim Nursick seconded the motion, Vote unanimous, motion carried.

## 4. Correspondence and Communication: None

## 5. Report from Director

Ryan O’Halpin stated that 3.4 million gallons received from MDC (\$20,000); 12.3 million gallons from the well. The well level was at 9 feet for most of the month and dropped to 8.5 feet at the end of the month. The well will be shut down and maintenance work will be performed. Non-revenue water: 27%; unaccountable water: 24%. A full system report will be developed (approximate cost of \$75,000) to help determine maintenance and repair priorities.

## 6. Old Business

**a. Development of an Alternate Water Source:** Ryan O’Halpin stated that the estimated cost for well construction is \$1.5-2 million. The estimated cost for the well pump house construction, treatment and connection to the system is \$3.4–5.6 million. He noted that the costs seem to be high given that a simple cinder block building will suffice, and a water softener system will likely not be needed. Exact well location will determine the cost as a retaining wall and fill may be necessary if the well is situated near the path and baseball fields. Information from DPH will help determine the site. Funding from the state legislature has been submitted. The town is not locked into a contract for the work and other options will be explored.

### b. Maintenance:

#### i. Water System

- The **Russell Avenue project** was started on February 29. Two new hydrants were installed. The project is progressing nicely, and the pressure test passed on March 11. The water quality sample is expected by March 12. The road work associated with the project will

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occur in May.

**ii. Sewer System:** An updated schedule for the sewer plant clarifier project has been received. The coating will be completed on March 12. Parts installation will also occur this week. A test run, with clean water, will be conducted for at least one week; then a wastewater test will be conducted for one week.

- **Coe Avenue and Riverview Pump station:** The project will be starting within the next two weeks.

**c. Meter Updates, Budget Rates:** Ryan O’Halpin stated that he submitted a budget item for the capital plan for \$440,000, but it did not get approved for this budget. However it will be in the capital plan, which will help when funding is available. \$25,000 has been allocated for new meters, which is the usual amount. There are two new, large water users coming online soon: Brainerd Place and the Spa on Brownstone Ave. Ryan O’Halpin has asked for information but has not received anything to date. There are no planned changes to budget rates, but that is subject to change, depending on new projects. Devon Arce stated that meter reading is on track for billing in April.

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

8. **Public Comment:**

9. **Adjournment**

Jim Nursick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim McCabe.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

**Next Meeting: April 8, 2024**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jon D’Arpino*  
Board Clerk