
Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

May 13, 2024, Regular Meeting

Buck Foreman Community Center – Second Floor

265 Main Street, Portland, CT

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

Absent: Jim McCabe

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

1. Call to Order

Rick Sharr called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

2. Review & Approve Minutes of April 8, 2024, Meeting

Jim Nursick noted one correction – delete extra text from Report from Director: ***“million gallons from the well.”***

A motion was made by Dick Cote, seconded by Jim Nursick to approve the corrected minutes of the April 8, 2024, meeting. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

3. Correspondence and Communication: None

4. Report from Director

Ryan O’Halpin stated that 6.5 million gallons were received from MDC (\$35,710) and 11 million gallons from the well for a total of 17.6 million gallons total. The overall usage trend is down, possibly due to leaks being detected and fixed. The well level started at 10 feet and ended at 10 feet. The well was shut down for five days.

5. Old Business

a. Development of an Alternate Water Source: Ryan O’Halpin noted, that, given the upcoming contract renegotiation with MDC, it is important to inform the BOS of the cost/ramifications of putting in a new well vs. not putting in a new well.

The existing MDC contract, which ends in 2026, has a minimum average of 400,000 gallons per day (146 million gallons per year). The CT DEEP interconnection permit is for 1.1 million gallons per day with a 2-million-gallon maximum. The contract minimum 146 million gallons in 2023 totaled \$771,000. The town used approximately 275,000 gallons per day on average from the Glastonbury Turnpike well for a total of 240 million gallons or 650,000 gallons per day average. MDC wants to raise the town’s minimum usage from 400,000 gallons to our full usage of 650,000+/- average per day or the total of 240 million gallons. If we do not raise our minimum, MDC wants to lower the interconnection permit to closer to actual usage. If we do not have an alternate water supply, we would not be able to lower the interconnection permit because we would need to 1.1 million gallons if the Glastonbury Turnpike well is not operational due to maintenance or drought conditions. Without the ability to adjust the CT DEEP interconnection permit numbers, MDC will likely make the town pay through a surcharge or raised minimum gallons per day.

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Estimated usage and flows for Brainerd Place (with the additional building) are 60,000 gallons per day (roughly a 10-15% increase). Ryan O'Halpin noted that, If MDC raises the minimum to 650,000 gallons, the well would not be running often. The well needs to be run regularly to maintain good working order. The cost of not doing anything is estimated to be significant. Rates from MDC nearly doubled from 2010 to 2020 (\$2.07/CCF to \$3.97/CCF). Although rates have been steady since 2020, large increases are likely to occur again in the near future.

The well surveys are still being reviewed/evaluated. Funding applications (Federal, State, DPH) have been submitted to but, to date, nothing has been committed/received.

b. Maintenance:

i. Water System

- The **Russell Avenue project** was tied into Main Street on April 8 and new valves are all functioning well. Russell Avenue reconstruction (road) will begin on May 20.
- **High Street Water Main Replacement:** The project is still in design. It is expected to go out to bid by mid-Summer for a start in the Fall. This is being funded by a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant. A section of High Street and Dogwood Drive will need to be repaved. High Street has a wide right of way (25'), which will enable less digging in the road. The project is expected to take no more than two weeks.

ii. Sewer System: The sewer plant clarifier project is in progress. Clarifier number 1 was put offline and the last of the coatings is being done. Coe Avenue pump station parts are expected in the next 2 months; the project should start mid-to late Summer. The blower system, which impacts how much wastewater can be processed, is looked into being designed this upcoming fiscal year.

c. Meter Updates, Budget Rates: No update.

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

7. **Public Comment:** None

8. Adjournment

Dave Kuzminski made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Kuzminski.
The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Jon D'Arpino
Board Clerk