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# Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

January 8, 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;  
Devon Arce, Revenue Collection Assistant, Water and Sewer Department

**1. Call to Order**

Dick Cote called the meeting to order at 7 02 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

**2. Review & Approve Minutes of December 11, 2023, Meeting**

A motion was made by Dave Kuzminski, seconded by Jim McCabe to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023, meeting. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

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

**4. Correspondence and Communication:** None

**5. Report from Director**

Ryan O’Halpin stated that 14.5 million gallons were received from MDC. The well was only run one day to conduct PFAS testing; level was at 9 feet. The minimum gallons to satisfy the MDC contract were not achieved. The well produced approximately 41% of the town’s water supply for 2023. \$743,00 was paid to MDC, with another possible \$25,000 still to be paid, which is under budget.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Development of an Alternate Water Source:** Ryan O’Halpin stated that he met with GZA on December 19 to review next steps to add a new well at the Portland Recreational Complex. An application for a public system well sight has been completed and will be ready to be submitted next week. This will expedite the process once funding is secured, and final approval is obtained. The funding (if approved) will cover the cost of the new well. DWSRF application information has also been entered. The final engineering report from Hazen and Sawyer and GZA is expected in mid-January.

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## b. Maintenance:

### i. Water System

- Ryan O’Halpin noted there is a grant for High Street (engineering estimate runs to Clearview).
- A contract has been signed Russell Avenue. Awaiting a construction schedule.
- Dogwood (approximately 400 feet of 6” pipe would be needed) to replace existing pipe (which failed) and connect services.
- Hilltop Drive and Perry Avenue projects have been completed is hooked up and all old lines have been abandoned.

**ii. Sewer System:** The clarifier project is progressing. The tanks were heated and the primer for the coating is done. The recent rainstorms collapsed the wood railing. The Coe Avenue pump station project will have a preconstruction meeting on January 11 with the contractor to discuss schedules.

**c. Meter Updates, Budget Rates:** Ryan O’Halpin distributed information for the cost to change meters \$90 per meter, \$126,000 (for labor only). The cost of the meters would be \$281,000. The town would provide a list and the vendor will coordinate the installation. The new meters would be drive-by and use the new software. There is no rate change expected for this year. The budget will be impacted by the new well, and the adjustment/contract negotiation with MDC.

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

8. **Public Comment:** None

## 9. Adjournment

Jim Nursick made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

**Next Meeting: February 12, 2024**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jon D’Arpino*

Board Clerk