
Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

August 14, 2023, Regular Meeting

Buck Foreman Community Center – Second Floor

265 Main Street, Portland, CT

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

Absent: Dick Cote

Also Present: Ryan O’Halpin, Public Works Director; Ralph Zampano, Board of Selectman Revenue

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Jim Tripp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

2. **Review & Approve Minutes of July 10, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Chairman Jim Tripp entertained motions to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting. A motion was made by Jim McCabe, seconded by Jim Nursick to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

3. **Correspondence and Communication:** Chairman Tripp noted that Mr. O’Halpin had communicated that testing of the meter for Mr. Dinegar and Ms. Paddock had been completed, and therefore the commission would be discussing the issue later in the meeting.

4. **Report from Director**

Ryan O’Halpin noted that the usage from MDC was 13.5 million gallons from MDC (approximately \$75,000); 10.9 well gallons. The well will need to be shut down more frequently to hit the 15–16-million-gallon goal. The well level rose during the flooding and has leveled off at 10.5 feet.

5. **Discussion and Possible Action on Customer Request for Adjustment to Water and Sewer Bill**

Chairman Tripp discussed the request from Mr. Dinegar and Ms. Paddock for a reduction of their water and sewer bills based on assertion the meter may have malfunctioned. Tripp further noted that the town had bench tested the meter in question and verified that it was working properly mechanically, and the electronic readings matched the mechanical reading. In addition, it was noted that Mr. O’Halpin confirmed with the meter manufacturer that there was no failure mechanism for the meter in question to temporarily read in error then return to consistent, accurate readings. Jim McCabe made a motion, based on the bench testing and the information received by the meter vendor, that the Water and Sewer Commission recommendation should be there is no basis for the BOS to approve reimbursement. Seconded by Jim Nursick. Dave Kuzminski noted that Mr. Dinegar had suggested putting the new meter in line to compare to the existing meter. Mr. Kuzminski stated that the town had done due diligence regarding testing and did not agree with Mr. Dinegar’s suggestion. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.

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6. Old Business

a. Development of an Alternate Water Source: Ryan O’Halpin stated that a full report, with recommendations, regarding the water quality results at the Route 17 Park site, will be forthcoming soon.

b. Maintenance:

i. Water System: Ryan O’Halpin noted that a visit to Scenic Drive will be made on August 15 to repair a slow valve leak. Water has been bubbling up from the valve for the last two months. A trench box had to be rented as the depth of the water line is 7 feet which is beyond the capability of town equipment. The leak has impacted the homeowner as he is not able to mow his lawn due to water accumulation. The water line on High Street, down to Bartlett, will be replaced. The asbestos pipe will be replaced. The STEAP grant is due by August 18.

Ryan O’Halpin is expecting quotes on the Hilltop Drive project. The Russell Ave ARP project is ready to go out to bid. Mizzy Construction reported that work on the water main repair on Perry Avenue will be started during the last week in August. Two lines on Marlborough Street (north side) have been abandoned. Russell Avenue will have three valves replaced

ii. Sewer System: The clarifier work low bid was \$917,000. The town is working to explore possibilities to lower the cost (e.g., using a ¼” coating thickness, aluminum instead of steel) Information is being sought from the Town of Glastonbury as they recently had similar work done. The ARP pump upgrade project documents are in final review at Weston and Sampson. Bid results are expected soon.

c. Meter Updates, Budget Rates: Ryan O’Halpin noted that software upgrade is in process. No updated information is available regarding aged receivables. Delinquent letters (to 25 customers) were mailed recently.

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

8. **Public Comment:** None

9. Adjournment

Jim McCabe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Kuzminski. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Jon D’Arpino
Board Clerk