
Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

April 10, 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; Board of Selectman: Ralph Zampano

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Jim Tripp called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

2. **Review & Approve Minutes of March 13, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Jim Tripp entertained motions to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023, meeting. A motion was made by Dave Kuzminski, seconded by Jim Nursick to approve the minutes. Three yes votes, one abstention. Motion passed.

3. **Correspondence and Communication:** Jim Tripp stated that he sent a letter of recommendation to the BOS regarding the Portland Laundromat water leak issue to write the letter of recommendation on behalf of the commission. Mr. Tripp noted that the information he provided included photos, a written summary from a plumber and other data.

4. **Report from Director**

Ryan O’Halpin noted that the town received 5.8 million gallons from MDC and 12.03 million gallons from the well in March. The well was shut down only three days. The well was steady at 8.5 feet. The MDC bill for March was \$31, 055, which is reflective of the new rate of \$3.80 dollars per CCF. Mr. O’Halpin met with MDC regarding a diversion renewal permit (25-year permit). The cost for the permit application will be approx. \$30,000. The permit must be submitted soon as it expires in January 2024. This is a separate permit from the MDC general agreement which will expire in 2026.

5. **Old Business**

a. Development of an Alternate Water Source: Ryan O’Halpin stated that GZA scheduled a meeting with a representative from DPH. GZA is proposing three test wells, although funding may only be available for two test wells (one in the RT 17 Park; one south of Portland Golf West, across from Gildersleeve Road). An application will need to be submitted for the Aquifer Protection Area.

b. Maintenance:

i. Water System: Ryan O’Halpin noted there were no major water issues this past month. Brainard Place is tied into the water mains off Main Street and ended at Perry Avenue (12” valve). Flow tests have been conducted and the lines have been disinfected. The water at the RT 17 Park and Riverfront Park water will be turned on this week.

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ii. Sewer System: Ryan O’Halpin stated the Green Mountain Pipe did some manhole maintenance last week. The pump at the Riverview Pump station will need to be replaced. A proposal was received from Xylem. Wright Pierce emptied one of the clarifiers and conducted some measurements today.

c. Meter Updates, Budget Rates: Ryan O’Halpin gave an update on aged receivables – \$93,142 was collected over the last few weeks from delinquent accounts. The next round of letters will be sent this week. There is still approximately \$380,000 still to be collected. Chairman Tripp noted that Selectman Zampano shared budget audit results, which showed accumulated debt in the Water and Sewer funds was reduced another \$265K during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Tripp noted that, in total, the accumulated debt in the water and sewer funds has been reduced by approximately 50 percent over the past three years.

6. **New Business:**

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

8. **Public Comment:** Ralph Zampano stated that he was contacted by a resident regarding high lime content in the water. He asked if there was more lime this time of the year (Spring). Dave Kuzminski noted that lime residue typically comes out of a hot water tank. Ryan O’Halpin stated that he will look at the test results to see if there is anything unusual. Mr. Zampano also asked about testing for PFAS. Ryan O’Halpin stated that PFAS tests were conducted in August 2022 for our water and no PFAS chemicals were detected. The town did not receive any PFAS test results from the MDC.

9. **Adjournment**

Jim McCabe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Nursick. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 8, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Jon D’Arpino
Board Clerk