

**Bangor Water District
Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of the
Annual and Regular Monthly Meeting
Feb. 18, 2014**

The regular and annual meetings of the Bangor Water District Board of Trustees were held at 3:45 p.m. in the Hughes Building, 614 State Street. Present were:

Rick Fournier
Patty Hamilton
Stan Miller
Gerry Palmer
Robert Sypitkowski

being more than a quorum of Trustees (Absent: Trustees Lawler and Wellington). Also in attendance: General Manager Moriarty, District Engineer Pershken, Finance Manager Bailey, and Office Manager Marchegiani. Trustee Miller, in the absence of Trustee Wellington, kept the minutes.

Annual Meeting

Election of Trustee Positions: Following nominations from the floor, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously

VOTED: to elect Trustee Hamilton as chair, Trustee Sypitkowski as vice-chair, and Trustee Wellington as clerk.

Appointment of Officers: Following nominations from the floor, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously

VOTED: to re-appoint Moriarty as General Manager and Finance Manager Bailey as Treasurer.

Check signing authority: Moriarty explained that the chair typically serves as the third authorized signatory on the District's checking account, to be utilized in the absence of the General Manager or the Finance Manager to sign checks over \$10,000 (two signatures required). Trustee Hamilton will complete the paperwork shortly.

Hearing no further business to come before the annual meeting, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn the annual meeting, and reconvene the regular monthly meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Regular Monthly Meeting

Minutes: The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Bailey presented the Treasurer's Report noting

- Metered water sales were slightly higher than budget for January.
- Collection activity was higher in January, catching up from the holiday lull.
- Claims for payment of health insurance deductibles continue to be low.
- Total operating expenses were slightly lower than budget.

Bailey indicated she would be reviewing various financial reports with the Board over the next few months, both to explain what the report entailed and to receive any formatting suggestions from the Trustees. After a number of questions related to report items, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Progress Report: As presented. Additionally, Moriarty reported that

- She had informally attended an informational session in Orono on the current discussion of THM levels in the Orono-Veazie Water District water, but did not participate.
- Staff members will be attending a deposition related to an insurance case on Buck Street.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Engineer's Report: Pershken reported on

- Plans for completion of the permanent rechlorination building at Bomarc Standpipe. To date, \$18,600 of the \$27,500 budget has been used – with primarily exterior work remaining.
- Hammond Street quarry. Results of consultant's geotechnical survey indicate that – performed within restrictions – blasting should not impact the standpipe.

Broad Street project: Pershken reviewed the scope of the project which BWD is bidding in conjunction with the City of Bangor, and the bid results which – in spite of negotiations over and changes to the contractor's work – still produced a price tag higher than \$188,430 previously presented to the Board. Pershken described the difficulty of working in the area, the overlap of utilities, the effort to identify all water service connections, and other issues that resulted in a higher-than-estimated price. He recommended proceeding with the project in conjunction with the City as revised, and after review and discussion, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously

VOTED: to authorize the General Manager to enter an agreement with Lou Silver Construction for the Broad Street project at a cost of \$201,306, and to include a 10 percent contingency as part of the project.

PUC regulatory reform update: Moriarty reviewed the report related to LD 441: Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Develop a Plan to Reform Regulation of Consumer-owned Water Utilities. Moriarty summarized the report with its recommendation to amend Title 35-A to allow exemptions or waivers of complete or partial PUC regulatory oversight. She stated that the PUC could apply exemptions individually or as groups or regions and her concerns of the potential lumping of utilities. The report did not address how PUC assessment fees would be calculated with deregulated utilities no longer paying assessment fees. Moriarty said that Southern Maine Water Regional Water Council—seven utilities serving 25 percent of the State's population – has drafted legislation as an alternative. This legislation would allow voluntary deregulation by water utilities if certain benchmarks—such as financial and technical competency - were demonstrated. Utilities could opt for exemption from parts of PUC regulation, or—under some circumstances—fully deregulate. PUC assessment fees would continue to be paid by deregulated utilities. A petition process could allow customers to overturn the exemption. She asked Board members to review the proposed legislation and background information, and provide comments or concerns to her.

New Business:

Thomas Hill Standpipe lights: Moriarty reminded the Board that the crown lights had been replaced with new wiring, fixtures, and bulbs, and that substantial security lighting had been added to the structure. The District has now assumed payment of the electrical bill from the City of Bangor, and the charges for January—which included the new lighting—was only \$48 higher than the previous year.

Thomas Hill Standpipe cover: Moriarty reminded the Board that a more permanent cover was needed for the top of the tank inside the standpipe's shroud, and that a nylon cover with ventilation ports appeared to be a cost-effective way to protect the water while allowing trapped condensation to escape. As part of the cover project, a safer permanent walkway around the tank's top would be constructed, a safety line would be installed, and the existing tank access at the top of the stairs would be replaced with a permanent dock. Total project cost is estimated at \$35,566. After discussion, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded,
VOTED: to approve staffs recommendation and award the project to Limerick Steeplejacks at an estimated price of \$35,566.

Bomarc Standpipe maintenance: Moriarty said the tank—constructed in 1986—had not been painted since and was showing signs of wear. Work proposed included power washing, touch-up of surfaces as needed, and repair and resealing of the foundation ring. After discussion, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously
VOTED: to approve staffs recommendation and award the project to Limerick Steeplejacks in the amount of \$35,500.

2013 Consumption: Moriarty briefly reviewed the top water consumers, and the nationwide wide trend to lower water consumption. In Bangor, residential consumption declined by 1.8 percent in 2013 while the number of residential accounts declined by only 0.7 percent.

Commitment of bills for collection: To facilitate in collection of unpaid bills including liens, it was, upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously:

VOTED: to certify and commit to the Treasurer of BWD a list of water rates established by BWD and approved by the MPUC for locations required by local and State law to pay a water rate to the District, **for the period from February 28, 2014 to February 28, 2015**, and as reflected in the District's billing register for the same period. The Treasurer is hereby required and authorized to collect the amounts listed and interest as approved annually by the Board by any means legally available under law.

AWWA conference: Moriarty said this year's conference is in Boston, and asked Trustees interested in attending to contact her within a week.

Board correspondence: as presented.

Hearing no further business to come before the meeting, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.

Stan Miller, clerk pro tem

Rick Fournier

Patty Hamilton

Gerry Palmer

Robert Sypitkowski