

**Bangor Water District  
Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of the  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Dec. 16, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Bangor Water District Board of Trustees was 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  
Dan Wellington

being more than a quorum of Trustees. Absent: Trustee Lawler. Also in attendance: General Manager Moriarty, District Engineer Pershken, Finance Manager Bailey, and Office Manager Marchegiani. Board appointee Foss, who will take office in January, observed the meeting. The clerk kept the minutes.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bailey reported that revenue to date was two percent higher than budget, due mainly to a smaller drop in metered sales than predicted as well as more income from timber sales than projected. Year-to-date expenses are one percent above budget, due to higher than predicted leak repairs and allocation of less labor to capital projects than planned. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

**Progress Report:** Moriarty announced the Bangor Water District had placed first in a state wide drinking water contest at the Maine Rural Water Conference.

**Public Comment Period:** None.

**Old Business:**

**Engineer's Report:** Pershken reported on

- repair to the chemical injection pit at the Butler plant. A decrease in fluoride levels was noted over Thanksgiving, and a deteriorated nozzle was found to be the cause. Staff developed three options for repair, and asked the Brewer Water Department to stand by for emergency supply. The repair was successful and only a two-hour shutdown was required with no need for emergency water from Brewer.

- Pond Road reconstruction and paving. Able to complete about one mile of road in worst condition, with underdrains, ditching, and work on shoulders. Final price tag estimated at \$368,000.
- Hammond Street standpipe repair. The tank has developed several leaks since 2010, most recently in May 2014. Existing welds were cleaned and recoated. Tank condition will continue to be monitored.

### **New Business:**

**Emergency Contractor Bid:** Moriarty reminded the Board that the District has had a contractor on standby for several years for those rare times when multiple leaks develop at the same time, or not enough District personnel are available to address an emergency situation. Three bids were received, and Moriarty recommended awarding to Gardner Construction (the current contractor). Although \$135 more than the low bid, Gardner's staffing ratio better fit BWD's needs. It was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously  
 VOTED: to award 2015 emergency contractor services to Gardner Construction.

**DigSafe Services Bid:** Moriarty again reminded the Board that the District used an outside contractor to handle DigSafe requests from April thru November this year, thereby freeing two staff members to perform other tasks. The new contract is for covered from April 1 thru November 30 when the call volume is the highest. Additionally, the contractor provides DigSafe coverage for all emergency (non-business hour) calls from January 1 thru December 31. Three bids were received, and Moriarty recommended award to CenterLine Contracting (the current contractor) as low bidder. It was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously  
 VOTED: to accept Moriarty's recommendation.

**Interest for Late Bills:** Moriarty reminded the Board that the maximum allowable interest for late-paying customers is set annually by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). The rate has been 11.25 percent since 2010, and will continue in 2015. Moriarty recommended maintaining the District's current rate of 11.25 percent annually, and it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously  
 VOTED: to accept Moriarty's recommendation.

**2014 write-offs:** Moriarty reviewed the accounts written off as uncollectible which totaled \$4,176 (compared to \$3,723 last year and \$3700 in 2010). Additionally, the District's collector had recovered \$818 in previously written off debt.

**2015 budget preview:** Bailey and Moriarty explained the thought process in setting the proposed budget, including

- a one-percent decreased in metered water sales.
- a 1.7 percent COLA and 1 percent merit increase to qualified employees
- funding renovation of Johnston Pump Station (c. 1957)
- pipe replacement planning of over 200 miles of pipe with 100-year-life
- funding a capital reserve account – newly allowed by the MPUC – to address aging infrastructure( 2.1 miles of water main replacement, i.e. 210 miles of pipe with 100-year-life)
- evaluation of anticipated rate adjustment

Board members discussed lagging behind in replacing 1 percent of pipes each year, and the danger of “doing nothing.” Moriarty noted deteriorating water infrastructure – just like aging sewer and highway infrastructure - is a national problem, with some municipalities pro-active in meeting the challenge and some choosing not to deal with it for various reasons. She said the 2015 budget is based on increasing the District’s minimum water bill by \$1.00 per month (\$1.88 per month for the average customer) starting in July 2015. Board members discussed whether a bigger or smaller increase was appropriate, and that a final decision would be made once the District’s annual audit is completed.

Having completed the budget preview and needing to discuss personnel performance to address wages, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel matters and then to return to open session.

Upon return to open session and brief discussion, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously

VOTED: to include a 1.7 percent cost-of-living increase (based on Social Security increase) for all employees and a 1.3 percent merit increase for qualifying employees (2 employees were awarded an additional 1 percent merit increase) in the 2015 budget.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 5:10 p.m.

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Dan Wellington, clerk

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Richard Fournier

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Patty Hamilton

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Stan Miller

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Gerry Palmer

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Robert Sypitkowski