

**Bangor Water District
Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
July 21, 2020**

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. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, Trustees and some staff participated remotely with both audio and visual available to all participants. Remote participation for the public was provided, but no one joined the meeting. Present were:

Ralph Foss
Patty Hamilton
John Hwalek
Gerry Palmer
Robert Sypitkowski
Dan Wellington

being more than a quorum of Trustees. Absent: Trustee Timpson. Also in attendance: General Manager Moriarty, Finance Manager Bailey, District Engineer Killip, Water Quality Manager Page, and Office Manager Marchegiani.

I. Public Comment: None.

II. Administrative:

Minutes: After discussion, the minutes of the June meeting were approved as presented.

Report of the Treasurer: Bailey reported that revenue year-to-date was on budget, but expenses were significantly below budget due to vacant positions and fewer than average leaks over the winter. After discussion, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Progress Report: as presented.

III. Old Business:

Engineer's Report: Killip updated the Board on

- Ozone system update: multi-year project including new ozone generators, upgrades to the SCADA system, and changes to the treatment chemical feed system. Engineer's preliminary design reviewed by treatment staff. Possible fall/winter construction start based on lack of contractor availability.
- Parker Street: project moves service lines remaining on c. 1925 line to c. 1982 line. Work being performed by contractor doing sewer work.
- State Street: new 16-inch water main from Spruce Street to Howard Street, in conjunction with City of Bangor sewer upgrades and paving. Reviewing options to ensure uninterrupted service to Northern Light Medical Center.
- Ohio Street: new water main being suspended under new bridge.

- BIA pressure zone expansion: multi-year project includes new standpipe and pump station and water main installations. Design work to begin in August; construction hopefully in 2021.

Workforce planning: Moriarty said there are seven positions currently vacant, including five in the construction department. Interviews for Construction Supervisor and Utility Workers have been scheduled; other positions are being held open for the time being. She said Bangor Water has reached out to local contractors for assistance should the need arise, a practice many smaller utilities follow routinely.

2020 rate case: Bailey reminded the Board that a seven-percent rate increase had been slated for July 1, to fund a variety of infrastructure projects. Due to the impact of COVID 19, the Board voted to delay implementation until a later date, and has been monitoring the financials each month. Bailey said reductions in wages (vacant positions), less materials (fewer leaks and reduced projects), and in lower depreciation has resulted in a stable cash position such that a rate increase could be delayed until 2021. The Trustees discussed customer impact vs. infrastructure needs, and after consideration, it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously

VOTED: to postpone the rate increase until 2021.
(All Trustees present were visible during voting.)

Chair Palmer experience some issues with his internet connections, and Vice-chair Foss conducted the meeting when needed.

Solar Update: Moriarty said the interconnection agreement related to a potential solar array – likely in the watershed – had been sent to Versant, who will then develop an Impact Statement. A lease option agreement – which also needs to be completed – is being reviewed by legal counsel.

IV. New Business:

2020 Harvest Plan: Page discussed the harvest planned for late summer, encompassing 50+ acres in an area that has not been cut recently. Best management practices will guide the cutting in order to protect water quality. Drainage and road work which has not been done since Bangor Water purchased the land will also be upgraded.

Employee Recognition: The Board recognized

- Service Worker Moore upon his retirement after 51 years of service.
- Office Manager Marchegiani on completion of 35 years

MPUC Dockets: Moriarty reviewed recently requests for information by the Maine Public Utilities Commission including

- The impact of COVID 19 on water utilities (staffing, resources, finances)
- The existing moratorium on involuntary disconnects
- Supply status re the drought

Drought Preparedness: Moriarty said lake levels are lower than last year but not approaching the levels of 2002 or 2016. She noted that installation of artificial spawning beds for the arctic charr had removed any issues with low water.

Board correspondence: as distributed. Trustee Palmer asked if Bangor City Manager Conlow might address the Board on current issues with Fiberight. The general consensus was that more relevant information might be available in a few months with an eye toward 2021 budgeting – possibly provided by the executive director of the group of towns involved in the project.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 4:55 p.m.
(All Trustees present were visible during voting.)

Dan Wellington, clerk

Ralph Foss

Patty Hamilton

John Hwalek

Gerry Palmer

Robert Sypitkowski