

**Bangor Water District
Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 17, 2021**

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. Trustees and staff participated in person, and 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
Michael Timpson
Dan Wellington

being more than a quorum of Trustees. Also in attendance: General Manager Moriarty, Finance Manager Silva, District Engineer Killip, and Office Manager Marchegiani.

In an addition to the agenda, the Board reviewed a proposed revision to the policy approved last month regarding remote participation in meetings. The revision clarifies remote participation due to an “emergency or urgent issue,” and it was upon motion being made and duly seconded, unanimously VOTED: to approve the clarification (copy attached to minutes).
(All Trustees visible during voting.)

I. **Public Comment:** None.

II. **Administrative:**

Minutes: After discussion, the minutes of the special and regular July meetings were accepted as presented.

Report of the Treasurer: Silva indicated metered sales year-to-date are comparable to 2020, and O&M expenses are down one percent compared to budget - due primarily to vacant positions, the timing of purchases and deliveries, and delays in receipt of some bills. After questions, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented.

Progress Report: After questions, accepted as presented.

Reports of the Personnel Committee: Committee chair Sypitkowski indicated the group would be scheduling a “check in” meeting with the General Manager.

III. Old Business:

Engineer's Report: Killip reported that work continued on the BIA-area pressure zone expansion project, with a standpipe site plan and updated cost estimate expected from the engineering consultant. Additionally

- The ozone plant upgrade is awaiting availability of stainless steel, now expected in mid-October.
- Additional poles have been received for the pond road power line project; pole brackets are now expected in mid-September
- The ultrasound of the Thomas Hill flagpole indicated it was a candidate for repair, rather than replacement. Additional review is needed, but repair would lessen the cost as well as the complications of moving materials to the top of the standpipe.
- Work is underway to abandon a 90+year-old dead-end line on Washington Street which serves one customer. The customer will be fed by a new service line from Hancock Street.

HR consultant update: Betsy Oulton from HRMaine Consulting introduced herself to the Board. She will assist with reviewing the proposed personnel handbook update, updating job descriptions, and assisting as needed with supervisor training, safety policies, FMLA and worker's compensation matters, etc.

Solar updates: Moriarty reviewed Bangor Water's history with solar projects, including a proposed solar array in the watershed that ultimately became financially unfeasible for the developers. Subsequently, the utility has been approached regarding participation in two other solar projects

- Kurt Penney from ReVision Energy explained a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) available through a project under development in Ellsworth. The agreement could generate Net Energy Billing savings annually for 20 years, starting potentially in 2022. After review of details, the consensus of the Board was to have the PPA sent to legal counsel for review.
- Michael Carey from SWEB explained the possibility a solar project on lands owned by other land owners outside the watershed and District lands inside the watershed. Siting of a solar project on leased acreage owned by the District would require approval by Maine Public Utilities Commission. Leasing of this land would provide annual lease revenue for 20 years. After questions – including concern over unauthorized access to the watershed – the consensus of the Board was to have the proposed contract sent to legal counsel for review.

Workforce Planning: Moriarty said one utility worker is scheduled to start on Aug. 30, with interviews scheduled for a second utility worker as well as an assistant engineer.

Rate Case update: Moriarty reminded the Board of the public hearing on Aug. 19.

Bylaws: Moriarty said the bylaws had been reviewed by legal counsel, and were now ready for additional modification by the bylaws subcommittee.

Wage study update: Moriarty said the wage consultant continued to gather information, and due to the amount and complexity of information, she would schedule a workshop session for the Board in late September.

Board training follow-up: Trustees concurred that recent Board training had been helpful, and suggested additional one-hour training on a topic such as drinking water regulation.

IV. New Business:

Legionella testing: Moriarty reported that samples taken following four cases of Legionella in the area had been negative.

Board appointment process: Moriarty noted that Trustee Hamilton intended to re-apply for the Board but Trustee Wellington would not. She suggested that trustees encourage acquaintances with a financial background to apply.

Board package correspondence: as attached.

Other business: Moriarty said an abundance of caution had resulted in a cancellation of the fall tour of Thomas Hill standpipe.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 5:55. p.m.
(All Trustees visible during voting.)

Dan Wellington, clerk

Ralph Foss

Patty Hamilton

John Hwalek

Gerry Palmer

Robert Sypitkowski

Michael Timpson