

**Bangor Water District
Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 17, 2022**

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. Remote participation for the public was provided, but no one joined the meeting. Present were:

Marc Edelman
Ralph Foss
Patty Hamilton
John Hwalek
Gerry Palmer
Michael Timpson

being a quorum of Trustees. Absent: Trustee Sypitkowski. Also in attendance: General Manager Moriarty, Finance Manager Silva, Office Manager Baxter and District Engineer Saucier.

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

I. **Public comment:** None

II. **Administrative**

Minutes: The minutes of the regular September meeting were approved as written.

Report of the Treasurer: Finance Manager Silva presented an overview of the September financials, first highlighting the month's disbursements and investments and then reviewing the year-to-date revenues and expenses compared to the budget. Silva indicated that both operating revenues and operating expenses came in slightly lower than budgeted for the month of September. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Progress Report of the General Manager: After discussion, and minor changes in formatting, the progress report was accepted as written.

Report of the Personnel Committee: In the absence of trustee Sypitkowski, the report of the Personnel Committee was postponed until the November Board meeting.

III. **Old Business:**

Engineer's Report: Saucier updated the Board on the following projects:

BIA Expansion – Pump Station: Progress on the pump station has been somewhat slow but consistent with the contractor's schedule. The slab has been poured, the floor drains installed, and all under-concrete piping completed. The first few courses of brick have been laid in preparation for parking lot paving that is scheduled in the next few weeks. Installation of natural gas piping is proceeding ahead of paving.

BIA Expansion – Pipeline Replacement: Progress continues with much of Corporate Drive complete and contractor’s crew is now installing the 12” and 16” pipelines up the Venture Way hill toward the existing and future tank sites. There have been isolated areas of ledge to be removed. As with many durable goods in the current market, the last pipe materials to be delivered is at a higher price than originally bid. This is driven at the manufacturer level, and we’re told that it’s happening across the board.

Ozone: The new actuator is installed, and we received a revised price for the PCS upgrade from the general contractor and their subcontractors. Meetings with the engineer and with the equipment supplier are scheduled for later in the month to resolve any issues that remain.

Griffin Road Pump Station: One of the two variable frequency drives (VFDs) located inside the pump station experienced an unanticipated failure early in the month. It may have been precipitated by some power fluctuations that occurred around town. Two pumps, each with their own VFD, are installed in the station for redundancy. While the pumps are relatively new, the VFDs are each over twenty years old. Several options for repair (a temporary solution) and replacement were outlined by Engineer Saucier.

A board member suggested that since both units are of the same age and that it may be more cost efficient, estimates for replacing both units concurrently be gathered. After discussion and questions by the Board, a motion was made and duly seconded to authorize an expenditure of \$50,000 from capital reserves to cover the cost of replacement of one or both units, contingent on cost and availability of economies of scale for the second unit.

VOTED: Unanimously authorize an expenditure of up to \$50,000 from capital reserves to cover the cost of replacing one or both VDFs, contingent on economies of scale.

Other Items of Interest:

- Thomas Hill Standpipe Tour on October 4th had 1050 visitors
- More information is being gathered on mobile phone leases
- Flushing on Broad Street underway due to water quality concerns
- Survey work is underway to locate pipes for abandonment at BIA and Bomarc
- Rate case support
- Service inspections

Board Appointments: The Board welcomed Trustee Marc Edelman, who was appointed by the City Council to fill a vacancy on BWD’s Board. His term expires 1/1/2025. In addition, Trustees Hwalek, Timpson and Sypitkowski, were reappointed to serve for another three-year term and will be sworn in at the January Council meeting. Their terms expire 1/1/26.

Rate Case Update: Following the Board’s October 4th rate case workshop, the Trustees had an informational workshop with the Bangor City Council on October 12th discussing the needs for an increase of rates. Moriarty reviewed with the Board the process of filing a request to adjust rates with the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), which includes notification to all customers, a public hearing, and availability of information at the business office. The proposed rate case, if approved by the MPUC, would go into effect on January 1, 2023. The last rate increase was in 2021. Moriarty stated that the District will make a revision to the rate sheets and will remove the Flat Rate Schedule since the District no longer has a flat rate customer.

Moriarty then reviewed the Pro Forma and recommended that BWD file a 9.8% rate adjustment with MPUC to go into effect on January 1, 2023. After review and discussion, a motion was made and duly seconded, unanimously,

VOTED: to file for a rate adjustment of 9.8 percent effective January 1, 2023, for all customer classes.

IV. New Business:

Terms and Conditions: Moriarty explained that the Terms and Conditions, which establish the rules and rates by which the BWD operates was last reviewed and updated in 2012. Changes to the Terms and Conditions require approval of both the Board and the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). Moriarty then highlighted the significant proposed revisions and described how the updated fees were calculated. After questions from the Board, a motion was made and duly seconded to support the proposed revision to Bangor Water’s Terms and Conditions and file them with the MPUC for review and approval with an anticipated effective date of January 1, 2023.

VOTED: Unanimously to support the revised Terms and Conditions and to file them with the Maine Public Utilities Commission for their review and approval.

2022 Newsletter: The Newsletter and Customer Notice have been reviewed by the Board and Department Heads and is set to be sent to the printer for production and mailing in November.

Board Correspondence: as distributed.

Other Business: Chairman Palmer stated that he has had feedback from community members expressing their regret at losing the “checkerboard” standpipe near BIA. He suggested displaying a section of the old standpipe on the grounds of the new one to preserve a piece of the historical structure.

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

VOTED: unanimously, to adjourn at the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Marc Edelman

John Hwalek

Ralph Foss

Gerry Palmer

Patricia Hamilton

Michael Timpson