

## **Kittery Water District – Board of Trustees Meeting – August 26, 2020 (via Zoom)**

Meeting held via Zoom and called to order at 7:30 a.m. Members in attendance: Trustees Caroline Rose, Julia O'Connell, James Golter and Supt. Mike Rogers. Members of the public in attendance: Garvin McCurdy, Chris Rubin, Jenny Freeman, Jen Thayer, Cathy Wolff, Suzanne Sayer, Linda Cheatham, Bob Sheppard, Linda Johnson, Bonnie Rogers, Julie Perrault, Everett Leland and Shara Geiger. Mission statement read.

**Agenda reviewed-** and adopted with one change.

**Secretary's report** - Minutes from August 12, 2020 were postponed to allow for further review. Minutes from August 19, 2020 were approved with one minor change. Minutes from August 21, 2020 were approved.

**Treasurer's report** - Submitted bills were read by Supt. Rogers and checked by Trustee Rose. Trustee Golter moves to pay bills. Seconded by Trustee Rose. Roll call, three in the affirmative, motion passes. Trustee Golter will sign checks today.

**Superintendent's Report-** Water main replacement completed at Pinkham Ave. and Harris Ave. A leaky service line was replaced on Chauncey Creek Rd. The Parco valves at the Hatch Filtration Plant are being rewired. We still need to consider upgrading the valves next year. Flow meters for pumps 1, 2 and 3 have not been replaced yet and are listed in CIP for this year. Water main replacement on Mendum Ave will begin the first week in September. Concrete repair of Folly Dam spillway (#9 CIP list) could possibly be done by Marston Industrial Services, depending on their schedule.

**Unfinished Business** State Forester timber harvest site walk to be done independently by State of Maine. PFAS testing dependent on State regulations that are uncertain as legislation is pending. The CDC PFAS task force found 9 of 19 public water supplies had PFAS. New concerns were raised about a dump site that contaminated a spring within a few miles of the Bell Marsh Reservoir. More research needs to be done to determine best choice of testing. Maine Drinking Water Updates and Covid-19 Zoom seminar review received from Guy Hodgdon. (PFAS are the biggest issue. Covid-19 precautions conform to CDC requirements. 50 masks were provided to KWD from MRWA and cybersecurity precautions were discussed.) The 2020 Master Plan, Section 6: Recommendations and Capital Improvement Program were discussed. Supt. Rogers will redline all items that have been completed and will send the updates to the Trustees. Trustee Rose observes that the Wright-Pierce disclaimer suggests KWD engage an Independent Registered Municipal Advisor for financial matters. She will look into this further. A study phase is recommended to fully understand the project cost and scope for Phase II of Hatch Filtration plant upgrade; the stated expenses are only estimates.

**New Business** Water transfer from Folly to Chase's Reservoir has begun as of Saturday, August 22. Folly Reservoir is dropping approximately 2"/day and Chase's Reservoir is holding steady. Voluntary Conservation Information needs to be added to the KWD website and made more user friendly and readily available to consumers. The Trustees will review other websites for better design options and web designers. Supt. Rogers will contact After 5 by Design to find out their expertise in web redesign and clean up. Discussed Holly Stark's proposal. Trustee O'Connell request that we find out if she would be available to facilitate a BOT meeting for specific concerns. Trustee Rose will follow up with this request. Trustee Rose moves to adopt a Books and Records, Borrowing Policy that KWD will lend items for up to 2 weeks and that items will be identified with the KWD address and phone number. Trustee O'Connell seconds. Roll call, three in the affirmative, motion passes.

**Open Discussion** Kevin Sutherland is scheduling 1:1 meetings with Trustees and Supt. starting tomorrow, August 27, 2020. Trustee Golter inquires about progress of the I-95 crossing. Supt. Rogers reports that we are still waiting for an updated plan from Brierly who now needs to obtain information from Henniker Directional Drilling. Trustee O'Connell suggests that the Trustees consider hiring a labor lawyer to assist with union contract negotiations, as this is an important complex process that requires expertise which is not present on the current board. Trustee Rose states that there is a Water/Wastewater Adult Ed webinar class being offered at Traip Academy on Sept. 24, 2020 that we should be aware of.

**Public Comment** Suzanne Sayer reports on the spread of Covid-19 from Millinocket wedding held on August 7, 2020. By August 29, sixty-nine people had been infected, including one who died. She reminds us not to let our guard down; wear masks, social distance, observe less than 15 minutes interaction if in close proximity, and quarantine 10 days if exposed, even if test results are negative. More information is available on Channel 17 at 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays from Maine CDC. Garvin McCurdy shows a schematic drawing of Pressure Pump recently installed at his home. He asks what triggers coliform tests? Supt Rogers responds that when a customer has complaints, coliform tests are performed to assure that water is safe to drink. He requests contact information for JD Welding. Jen Thayer would like to know why water testing is being performed at local public schools by KWD. Supt. Rogers states that it is a State of Maine mandates and the school facility manager has requested it. They are testing for the following; Legionella bacteria, coliform, copper, and lead at Mitchell, Shapleigh and Traip schools. She also asks if a student internship is possible at KWD despite Covid? It is suggested that any interested students attend the Traip Adult Ed Water/ Wastewater class in September that was previously mentioned. Trustee Rose suggests that a student could intern with Randy B. the town videographer, to learn about how digital media is changing the way the public interacts with all levels of government. Shara Geiger states that it is important to get young people involved with water issues and opportunities for employment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m. Next BOT meeting to be held Sept. 2, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Julia O'Connell, clerk



Disclaimer: The preceding minutes constitute the author's understanding of the meeting. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript of comments at the meeting, but as a summary of the discussion and actions that took place.