

Kittery Water District – Board of Trustees Meeting – December 16, 2020 via Zoom

Meeting held via Zoom and called to order at 7:30 a.m. Members in attendance: Trustee Caroline Rose, Julia O’Connell, James Golter and Supt. Mike Rogers. Members of the public in attendance: Elizabeth McKay, Bob Sheppard, Garvin McCurdy, Kristi Mathieson, Suzanne Sayer, William St. Laurent, Linda Johnson, Julie Perrault, Bonnie Rogers, Leah Caswell, Dina Wilford, John Perry, Shara Geiger, David Ronkas, E B Leland, and Judy Spiller. Mission statement read. Public was asked to hold comments until “Public Comment”

Agenda reviewed- and approved with changes.

Secretary’s report- Minutes for BOT meeting December 2, 2020 were read and accepted with minor corrections. Reading of BOT minutes from December 9, 2020 will be postponed until next week. Executive Session of December 11, 2020 read and approved with minor changes and the addition of language to include that state practices for tie elections are not to leave a seat vacant until the runoff but that it remain filled by the incumbent.. Minutes from the Zoom meeting with representatives from PNSY (and NAVFAC) were read and will be revisited next week. Garvin McCurdy requests that his comments relating to chloramine having a deleterious effect on the Piscataqua River’s environment be included.

Treasurer’s report – Submitted bills were read by Supt. Rogers and checked by Trustee Rose. Trustee Rose moved to pay bills. Seconded by Trustee O’Connell. Trustee Golter will sign checks.

Superintendent’s Report

The Bell Marsh and Upper Folly dam repairs are 60% complete and have been delayed due to cold weather.

Pond Levels- (rain in the past week approx.. 1 ½”)

Boulter Pond is cresting (which is up 2” from last week), Middle Pond is negative 4’ 4” and is (up 7”) Upper Folly Pond is negative 3’ 11” and is (up 8” from last week) The Bell Marsh Reservoir is negative 8’ 6” and is (up 5”) from last week.

Tied Election discussion. Candidate Trustee Golter recuses himself from this discussion. There will be a runoff election on Tuesday, January 26, 2020 between the two existing candidates. Trustee O’Connell makes a motion to hire a Registrar to oversee the election. Trustee Rose seconds. The district will hire a registrar as stated in our Charter. An RFQ will be created and sent to prospective registrar applicants. Voting hours will be extended to 6 p.m. The annual meeting will be held a week later on February 2, 2020. Supt. Rogers will notify the Portsmouth Herald and create the warrant for our annual meeting.

Charter Concept Bill notification. Trustees need to review letters of support from Eliot, Kittery and York that Supt. Rogers will provide. We will review tax exemption and eminent domain language in an effort to maintain the status quo. The following was decided; the legal boundaries of the KWD voter area will be coterminous with the town of Kittery and include areas of Eliot and York that are coterminous with existing water infrastructure so that we avoid eminent domain issues. Supt. Rogers will provide a map of new and existing pipes in York and Eliot. The recently planned extension of a water main on Rte 236 to Bradstreet Lane in Eliot will also be included. Trustees will meet with SMPDC on Monday at 10 a.m. to create a description of boundaries to be used for the charter update. This meeting will be open to the public but the public will only be allowed to observe and not comment. Details on how to access the Zoom link will be posted on our website.

Executive Session- Trustee Rose moves to go into Executive Session on Friday, December 18, 2020 at 8 a.m. via Zoom pursuant to Chapter 1 MRSA 405 Section(6)(E) to meet with the Superintendent, the Board of Trustees and legal counsel, Tom Trenholm. Trustee O'Connell seconds. Roll call, three in the affirmative, motion passed.

Financial Report for November 2020 reviewed.

Pump #2 Repairs discussed. There are now three options. An additional option was presented by Supt. Rogers who has obtained a price of \$14K for a new Wyman brand pump which will cost approximately \$2500 to install and align with our existing motor (alignment to be determined) A representative from Gould company has taken measurements and will submit a proposal for a new pump. It is about \$9000 for the other two options previously discussed to rebuild our pump with new sleeves. We will wait until next week to make a decision.

Redundancy discussed. The need to have back up systems for data, internet, and employee skill sets was discussed and it was decided that Supt. Rogers prepare a list of suitable candidates to become assistant superintendent. We will also create an RFQ for a list of plumbing and heating specialists to cover in the event that Trustee Golter is not available. Trustee Golter has agreed to write up a list of qualifications that are needed for district plumbing and heating needs.

Open Discussion Rep. Kristi Mathieson will be meeting with OPLA before Monday the 21st and would like to know if we have any questions for them. Supt .Rogers answers the question; How much was paid to build the road to the recent timber harvest in Horse Hills... \$22,406. (the Road is approximately 4000' long)

Public Comment- Linda Johnson, the office manager, would like to know if the employees will be receiving their annual Christmas bonus. Trustee Golter said that the male employees normally receive a \$100 gift certificate to KTP. Garvin McCurdy notes that the "chat box" indicates there is confusion about customers vs. taxpayers. As a retired military man he says that redundancy is an important part of being prepared. Suzanne Sayer asks if private conversations in the chat box are recorded? Answ. No, only public conversations.

With no further business appearing, this Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

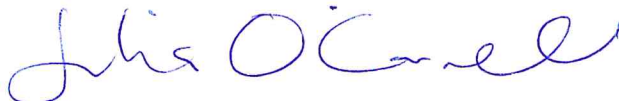
An executive session is tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2020 at 8 a.m. with Tom Trenholm of Drummond Woodsum, esq.

Our next BOT meeting will be held Wednesday December 23, 2020 via Zoom at 7:30 a.m.

A special meeting with SMPDC will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 10 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

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.