

Kittery Water District – Board of Trustees Meeting – January 20, 2021 (via Zoom)

Meeting held via Zoom and called to order at 7:32 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, Pete Henderson, Shara Geiger, Bob Sheppard, Guy Hodgdon, Suzanne Sayer, Kristi Mathieson, Bill Wagner, EB Leland, John Perry, Julie Perrault, Bonnie Rogers, and Linda Johnson. Mission Statement read.

Agenda approved as written.

Secretary's report – Minutes from the Executive Session read and accepted with a minor correction. Minutes from the BOT meeting on January 13, 2021 were approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's report – Submitted bills were read by Supt. Rogers and checked by Trustee Rose. Trustee Golter motioned to pay the bills. Trustee O'Connell seconded. Roll call, three in the affirmative, motion passed. Trustee Golter will sign checks today.

Superintendent's Report- The post lime feed continues to malfunction. Wright-Pierce Engineers are evaluating. An electrician will be on site at the plant on Friday, Jan. 23, 2021 to evaluate.

Charter Specifics- Maps were received from Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission. The Rte. 236 expansion needs to be clarified and SMPDC will need to write out metes and bounds for the Revisor's Office. The Trustees would also like to include the watershed that contains our water sources. Trustee O'Connell will contact SMPDC with our requests.

Reviewed Superintendent's letter of recommendation for Carl Palm to serve as an assistant. He requests that Carl Palm continue to work in IT while learning the duties of assistant Supt. A job description was requested. Trustee O'Connell states that she thinks all management level positions should be hired by the Trustees. Trustee Rose motioned to grant Supt. Rogers authority to hire Carl Palm as an assistant and that a formal job description will need to be written. Trustee Golter seconded. Roll call, two in the affirmative, one in the negative, motion passed. We will go into Executive session to discuss salary. Trustee O'Connell asks Supt. Rogers if there is any truth to the Facebook post that he will quit if Jennifer Brewer is elected. He stated that there is not.

Reviewed the plant generator maintenance expenses. Preventative maintenance total is \$2,794.29. Trustee Rose moved to approve the expense. Trustee Golter seconded. Roll call, three in the affirmative, motion passed.

Election reminders and clarifications discussed. The town of Kittery Police Department has generously donated the use of their large electric sign. The ballot box will be installed for election day by Carl Palm and Supt. Mike Rogers. They will weather proof it with a tarp and install lighting for evening use. A sample ballot has been sent to the Registrar, Maryann Place. We will be using the same voter requirements as we have for the past three elections and will notify Ms. Place. There have been some issues reported during this campaign and everyone is reminded of the following; fact check sources when reading social media, do not tamper with signs, Kittery Water District employees may campaign for a candidate with the following stipulations; they do not claim to represent the Kittery Water District, they only use personal resources to make contact and not use the KWD customer data-base.

Open Discussion- Social media has recently posted some misinformation that is confusing. Please check the accuracy of any information obtained through social media before sharing.

Public Comment – Linda Johnson was concerned that Facebook information was misused. Trustee Rose would like the audio recording from December 9, 2020 to be posted on our website. Trustee O’Connell will resend to the correct IT address. Garvin McCurdy requested that the new charter state the “salary” of the Trustees. He suggested that if Trustee Golter is not re-elected that he could become assistant superintendent. He feels that the two candidates for Trustee position have very different skill sets but both have something positive to bring to the board, and that Ms. Brewer can look at things that Trustee Golter won’t look at, such as the environment on both sides of the river. Suzanne Sayer wants to know where the Facebook info from Ms. Adams originated from. Would like to know if all public attendees are recorded, feels that minutes should reflect different things, wants to know if the pipe under I-95 could go under York River instead, wants to know more about Supt. Roges evaluation process. (The contract will become public after it is approved) Linda Johnson read her letter of concerns into the record, including problems with misinformation about the chances of chloramine being added to our water. It was decided that a press release drafted by trustee Rose, will be sent to the Portsmouth Herald ASAP. The following points would be made; Public input policy, Water district’s policy on chloramine and adding chemicals to our water, how water rates are adjusted, charter update, and election announcement. Chloramine information on our website will be removed to avoid further confusion. Garvin McCurdy wishes everyone a Happy Inauguration Day!

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

The next BOT meeting will be held Wednesday, January 27, 2021 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 verbal transcript of comments at the meeting, but as a summary of the discussion and actions that took place.