



Trustees

Richard E. Boston, President
Russell A. Peterson, Treasurer
Stephen C. Rendall Jr., Clerk
Karen Arsenault, Trustee
Richard Leigh, Trustee

Administration

Donald D. Neumann Jr., Superintendent
Gary E. Stevens, Asst. Superintendent
Patrick M. Desrosiers, Financial Manager
Ryan Lynch, Treatment Plant Manager

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the York Water District was held at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 through remote conferencing as recently approved by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

President, Richard Boston called the Meeting to order at 12:05 PM. Others present were Treasurer – Russell Peterson, Clerk – Stephen Rendall, Trustee – Richard Leigh and Trustee – Karen Arsenault. Staff present was Superintendent – Donald Neumann,

At 12:06 PM, A motion was made by Stephen Rendall and seconded by Russell Peterson to go into Executive Session for consultation with our Attorney, Pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405(6)(C), (E). Re York Heights Water Storage Tank Cellular Proposal. It was unanimous.

At 1:11 PM A motion was made by Russel Peterson and seconded by Karen Arsenault to leave Executive Session for consultation with our Attorney Pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405(6)(C), (E). Re York Heights Water Storage Tank Cellular Proposal. It was unanimous.

No action was taken

The Trustees took a recess until the regular Trustee meeting scheduled to begin at 2:00 PM

President, Richard Boston called the Meeting to order at 2:06 PM. Others present were Treasurer – Russell Peterson, Clerk – Stephen Rendall, Trustee – Richard Leigh and Trustee – Karen Arsenault. Staff present was Superintendent – Donald Neumann, Asst Superintendent – Gary Stevens, Financial Manager – Patrick Desrosiers, Treatment Plant Manager – Ryan Lynch, Financial Asst. – Shelley Kimball and Utility Coordinator – Todd Hill. Also attending were several York residents, Sarah Clark of Yarmouth, ME, and Cecelia Doucette of Massachusetts.

On a motion made by Karen Arsenault and duly seconded by Stephen Rendall, it was voted unanimously to accept the Minutes of the September 16, 2020 Board Meeting.

Before Public Comment was opened President Boston read guidelines for the public comment period and introduced the Board of Trustees.

Public Comments were made by:

Cecelia Doucette
Torbert MacDonald
Christine Gsottschneider
Wendy Roberts
Laurie MacDonald
Donna Bakke
Sharon Trafton
Sarah Clark
Janet Drew

The Financial Manager presented the Board with the September budget reports and income statement for review and discussion. The monthly revenue for September exceeded budget by approximately \$16,000. This was driven by higher than expected residential water use. Non-operating revenue exceeded budget in September. \$29,000 in Timber Harvest has been received to date. Year-to-date revenue exceeds budget by approximately \$92,000. Year-to-date cost remains under budget. Some of this is due to the timing of the completion of some planned projects while other projected spending will not occur. Year-to-date net income from operations is currently exceeding budget by about \$230,000.

See what action the Board may take regarding a proposed AT&T installation of cellular antennas on the York Heights tank.

Trustee Rendall wanted to thank everyone for the feedback received. Through this process the Board has received lots of information from both sides of the proposed project. AT&T has provided detailed information which presents many reasons why the project is not a concern for life safety, environment & property. While many concerned residents have come forward with information to invalidate AT&T's case. At this time Trustee Rendall felt the Board had 3 options moving forward; deny, approve, or pause and study.

On a motion made by Trustee Rendall and duly seconded by Trustee Peterson, to not deny or approve, but instead to pause, document the current concerns that have been raised by local residents, and as requested by them, hire an independent consultant to review the project and validate or invalidate the resident's claims. Work to find the ultimate source of truth. Trustee Rendall further moved that this would not be a cost burden to the YWD, but instead would be a cost reimbursed to the district by AT&T.

During discussion, Trustee Peterson was worried that we may never get the clarity we are looking for but willing to try. Also mentioned he found it interesting that people perceived that we have been pressured by AT&T and that is not the case at all.

Trustee Rendall also noted throughout the whole process, there has not been any pressure on when a decision will be made.

Trustee Leigh noted that the Board and Superintendent are trying to be as honest, open, and clear about our direction and decision making. Also stated he did not feel that the Board has been pressured in any way.

Trustee Arsenaault noted the Board wants to make the right decision. This evaluation has been going on for some time before being brought to the public and make sure it is the right thing for the community and YWD.

Trustee Boston stated he is opposed to the motion. He does not want to go forward with the project. He thought back to around 2002 when Central Maine Power wanted to put a transmission line behind his home. Back then nobody could give us answers. There were studies showing harmful, not harmful so residents took the project all the way to the PUC. They ruled in our favor and CMP had to find another avenue to install their transmission line for York Village. There is another avenue that AT&T can use besides York Heights Tank.

Trustee Rendall felt that it was important for the group to look at the chronology of events that has led to this discussion. As a Board this topic has been discussed in many meetings since 2019. Don Neumann, Gary Stevens, and team has applied the same diligence to this project that they have applied to all other YWD projects. To those that have expressed they have not been given proper notification, that was a surprise and disappointed to hear that. First Meeting was scheduled in May 2019 as a Public Agenda Item, again on Oct, Nov, & Dec of 2019 and Feb, March, May, and July of 2020. These were all topics the Board had presentations and agenda items for. August 2020 a mailer went out to 1942 residents in addition to a Public Meeting. He did not feel that it was accurate to say that people were not notified about the project. The Board is committed to better communication. It was noted that the Agenda and Minutes from these meetings are accessible on the website.

President Boston called for a vote - Motion passes 4 votes in favor and 1 vote against.

Treatment Plant Manager gave an update on the current drought conditions. We received just under 4” of rain this month. He felt with the precipitation we received and the expected precipitation the pond would be up to normal conditions. He also explained that the summer line meters are due to be shut off on Monday, October 26 and this also would help with our daily demand decreasing.

The Superintendent gave an overview of current projects:

- He explained we had taken water from KKW for the last 30 days. This really helped with drought conditions. Great to have the partnership interconnections with both Kittery Water District and Kennebunk Water District.
- Preparing for the 2021 Budget
- Nubble Road main replacement is scheduled for fall of 2021
- Our Engineer is working on the plans for the Axholme main replacement which is scheduled for the spring of 2021
- Planning for Spring Flushing
- Spending a lot of time on Plan reviews, right now there are 300± units (workforce housing, houses & sub-divisions) that could potentially require service. Addressing water demand while the Town is updating their comp plan. Don has asked Wright Pierce to prepare a proposal to review supply and projected future demand issues. This work needs to tie into the Town’s comp plan update.
- Working on selecting a new Dam Engineer. (Last one retired). This will be key as the Town of York plans to replace the town owned bridge in front of Chase’s Pond Dam. YWD may have projects that need to be completed pre or post bridge replacement.
- Still working on the sluice gate replacement. Delivery is expected soon, and we plan to coordinate installation asap.
- Our summer line customers are scheduled to be shut-off on October 26th this will decrease our daily demand
- Crews are getting ready for hydrant checks and snow season

General Discussion:

Trustee Rendall asked how KKW water levels are. Don explained that they are in good shape. They also have the option of purchasing water from Biddeford/Saco if necessary. They serve 6 communities some seasonal customers as well, so their daily demand is also on the decline.

Trustee Peterson asked in planning for the community’s growth what kind of planning or analysis can be done to improve supply. Don explained that we have a limited supply and to improve we would need to look regionally. This will take long term planning and why we need to work with the Town of York on their Comp plan update. Don explained that the Build out Analysis compared to our available supply will help determine how soon we need to implement next steps. It is important to keep that in mind as YWD schedules water main replacements as we plan for the future.

Don reminded the Board that October is his anniversary month, that he had supplied the Board with his Self-evaluation on October 1st. Asked if the Board needed anything else to let him know.

Trustee Boston adjourned the meeting at 3:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Rendall
Clerk
York Water District