

As voted by the Board of Trustees and in accordance with the notice of the meeting, the monthly Workshop Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Portland Water District was held in the Nixon Training Center at the general offices of the District, 225 Douglass Street, Portland, Maine on Monday, November 14, 2022. In attendance from staff were S. Garrison, C. Crovo, D. Kane, S. Firmin, J. Wallace, G. Johnson, D. Katsiaficas, C. Cote and M. Demers. Daniel Willett of Gorham was in attendance from the public.

All Trustees were present.

President Douglas convened the Public Hearing at 6:37 p.m.

### **Special Meeting**

A Public Hearing was held to receive public input on the proposed average 5.6% increase in water rates effective January 1, 2023.

Mr. Garrison's remarks to the public and the Board are noted on the attached PowerPoint presentation.

President Douglas asked if there were any questions from the public. No members of the public spoke.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:55 p.m.

President Douglas opened the workshop meeting at 6:56p.m.

Prior to the start of the workshop, Scott Firmin and Jim Wallace, provided an update to the Board on the recent activity at the East End Wastewater Treatment Facility and the water main break in Standish.

A discussion of the age and condition and assets at the East End WWTF highlighted the need for continued investment with two recent events.

Work being done on the headworks influent screen at the East End required that one of the channels was taken off-line. The heavy rains from 3 weeks ago caused an overflow while the gate/influent channel was being performed. It is estimated the overflow was under 100,000 gallons. The screen has since been repaired and is back in operation.

The Pista Grit Units also required maintenance. One is back on-line, the other was cleaned but the pump issue is still unresolved. With the heavy rains this past weekend and with the gate/channel still closed there was another overflow. The volume of the overflow was not known.

In an unrelated incident, a sludge loading conveyor experienced a failure at the gear box. It took 3 days to get it back on-line. Upon startup of the conveyor the pumps were compromised. We are working to get them repaired.

On November 5 there was a water main break in the Standish 540 zone. The Standish Fire Department was doing an exercise on School Street. They opened and closed a hydrant a few times and the main broke after one of the times they closed it, creating a leak on Northeast Road. Within minutes we received calls of customers reporting air in the water system. The plant had been offline Saturday morning so we were unable to turn a pump on as soon as we found the leak. If air gets in the main, other contaminants can as well. Positive pressure was sustained during the event. As a precaution, a Boil Water Order was put in place and 72 notices were hand delivered to affected customers. Water samples were taken the next morning after the main was fixed and the Boil Water Order was lifted Monday morning.

### **1. 2023-2027 Capital Improvement**

Chris Crovo, Director of Asset Management and Planning, presented the proposed CIP. He provided a Power Point presentation to the Board which is attached as part of the minutes.

Mr. Crovo described the CIP process for 2023. PWD has a 5 year CIP plan. He provided a schematic as to how the process works. He also described how the supply chain issues have affected the District. In a typical year the District will complete roughly 14-16 projects. For 2022 the District was only able to complete 8.

The 2023 Capital Plan is estimated to be 23.1 million dollars. It includes multiple programs.

8.6 million is budgeted for water and 14.5 million is budgeted for wastewater.

Trustees discussed the proposed budget and questions were answered by staff.

### **2. Other Business**

The Water Bottle Filling Station Grant Committee is looking for another member. If interested please let Mr. Garrison know.

The proposed 2023 meeting schedule was handed out. This will be voted on at the November business meeting.

Mr. Garrison reported that a very small study is being initiated to look at batteries for the East End as an option to offset energy costs.

Mr. Garrison welcomed Mr. Willett. He is the new elected Trustee representing Gorham.

### **3. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaficas  
Clerk