

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, January 10, 2022. In attendance from staff were Mr. Kane, and Mses. Lewis and Katsiaficas.

All Trustees were present except Trustee Siviski.

President Douglas convened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Special Meeting

A Public Hearing was held to receive public input on the proposed average 3.7% increase in water rates effective March 1, 2022.

Ms. Lewis' remarks to the public and the Board are noted on the attached PowerPoint presentation.

The District received one phone call stating an objection to the upcoming rate increase.

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

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:41 p.m.

President Douglas opened the workshop meeting at 6:42p.m.

1. Other Business

PWD is experiencing an increase in absences due to COVID. 14 employees were out today. PWD is minimizing close contacts, enforcing masking, social distancing and conducting contact tracing. Supervisors have been asked to plan for staff shortages due to COVID. Trustee Garrison asked what plans are in place for operating facilities if staff is unavailable. Ms. Lewis said contact tracing and quarantining is being enforced. If required, people could be brought from quarantine. Senior staff including Ms. Lewis have licenses to operate some facilities. It might be possible to quarantine staff within a facility if required for operation - but is not likely to occur.

A rail corridor council update was also provided. Ms. Lewis gave a description of Paul Hunt's efforts at the Council meeting last week, where he basically delivered a message that he was representing the wishes of the Board. Mr. Hunt made clear that the Board did not wish to grant rights in the rail corridor for the trail, but that the Board would entertain a trail proposal on other District land if proposed by other parties, as PWD is not in the business of trail design. MDOT staff told the Council that the MDOT Commissioner has no intention of overriding any existing legal arrangements.

A Standish Town Councilor - Ben Macri - has contacted Carrie Lewis and asked that the Standish Steering Committee meet again to discuss a few issues. Membership of the Committee needs to be solidified. Trustee Lunt serves on the Committee as well as Trustee Siviski. Another member of the Board must be appointed. Trustee Lunt welcomed the Committee meeting again, as it had not met in some time. He asked Trustees to tell Ms. Lewis of any issues they want to see addressed by the Committee. He will bring information from the Committee meetings back to the Board. It is hoped a meeting can occur in the next 3-4 weeks.

2. Executive Session

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A) personnel, the Board went into Executive Session to conduct the General Manager's annual performance review.

A motion was made by Trustee Rich and seconded by Trustee Cote to go into executive session to conduct the General Manager's annual performance review.

The Executive Session began at 7:00 p.m. and ended at 8:26 p.m. Motion to come out of Executive Session and adjourn made by Trustee Cote, second by Trustee Rich.

3. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaficas
Clerk