

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, September 9, 2019. In attendance from staff were Messrs. Crovo, Firmin, Wallace, Johnson, and Meses. Lewis, Katsiaficas, and Demers.

All Trustees were present except Trustee Siviski.

President Cote convened the workshop at 6:45 p.m.

1. Legislative Update. Donna Katsiaficas, Corporate Counsel, presented an overview of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Attorney Katsiaficas provided a presentation to the Board giving details about the 2019 Legislative session. The Board had received an extensive memorandum providing information about the legislative session in their packets. Ms. Katsiaficas told the Board that new laws will go into effect September 19, 2019. The Legislature considered more than 2,000 bills during the session.

Of interest to PWD were bills related to inspection of septic systems, water and wastewater infrastructure funding and a labor bill allowing union access to PWD facilities for meetings.

Several bills have been held over for the 2020 session. These bills include a bill allowing public employees to strike.

General Manager Lewis provided an update to the Board of the impacts of Federal legislation. Trustee Garrison asked about Gradient Consulting and the company's ability to do the required risk and resiliency assessments study noting the passing of one of their principals. Ms. Lewis and Mr. Crovo acknowledged that the strength of Gradient Consulting was on the physical asset side.

There was a dialog of questions between Ms. Katsiaficas and the Board. Trustee Beck wanted the Trustees to be given the opportunity to weigh in on pending legislation. Ms. Katsiaficas said staff could try to alert the Board, but often the staff did not have the information in time to give to the Board. It was agreed that staff would attempt to inform the Board on a regular basis. Trustee Willey suggested keeping a workshop item in February and March of next year to update the Board on pending legislation for the purpose of allowing the Board to give their consensus on topics and provide direction to the General Manager. Ms. Lewis agreed.

Trustees Rich and Beck asked how PWD determines what bills to comment on at the legislature. Ms. Katsiaficas noted that she asks PWD's lobbyist to monitor bills related to water operations, labor, tree growth and wastewater operations.

Trustee Willey told Ms. Lewis he preferred that she not testify on bills on behalf of the Maine Water Utilities Association – that she should let others take the lead. She noted that was her approach, and that she testified on behalf of the Association when they could not find anyone else to testify for them due to conflicting schedules – once or twice.

Trustee Willey also asked to be informed of local ordinances that would impact PWD operations. He noted the new ordinance in Portland that deals with carbon footprint and reporting of energy usage. Ms. Katsiaficas responded that the implementation of the ordinance had been delayed for

a number of reasons. She has spoken with Troy Moon, sustainability Coordinator for the City who is prepared to come in and speak with the Board to explain the ordinance and how it will work. Andrew Welch, Facilities Manager, is prepared to comply with the ordinance and begin its implementation.

2. Capital Improvement Projects Update. Chris Crovo, Director of Asset Management and Planning, provided the Board with an update on current projects.

Mr. Crovo began with the East End WWTF Electrical project and the backup power upgrade. He reminded the Board of the commitment from CMP to build a substation on the property. Mr. Crovo went on to describe other East End WWTF upgrades including the primary clarifier rehabilitation, HVAC upgrades and boiler replacement. Portland pump station projects including Fore River, Baxter Boulevard and Stroudwater pump station projects were also highlighted.

Mr. Crovo also detailed projects occurring in PWD's service area. He explained the bidding environments for the projects, and the bid process being used by PWD to get bids on PWD's projects. Projects in Cape Elizabeth, Westbrook, Gorham and Windham were described.

The Douglass Street roof replacement project is scheduled to start in November; the budget is \$285,000.

The Gorham/Windham 407 zone project is in the design phase; PWD is also acquiring property to complete the project. Land acquisition is anticipated in January of 2020.

The SCADA radio modem replacement project has been postponed to the 2020 CIP.

Trustee Willey asked about Johnson screens. Mr. Crovo explained the status, indicating the project has been delayed and why.

A chart of the water main replacement projects for 2019 was provided to the Board with a status completion update. Several projects came in after the Board approved the original budget for a variety of reasons; some were as a result of emergencies, others were as a result of priorities of the State and cities and towns.

Trustee Willey has asked for regular status updates. Trustee Rich asked if this year was typical. Mr. Crovo said somewhat, but there have been unanticipated issues with the bidding environment, busy contractors and emergency conditions that were not anticipated. Adjustments are made to keep things moving.

3. Other Business.

General Manager Lewis told the Board that in their packets they have the letter which went to the Town Manager of Standish explaining membership in PWD. The employee satisfaction survey is also out for response by employees.

Trustee Willey noted that Standish becoming a member might coincide with the reallocation of Trustees due to the census.

The business meeting is September 16.

Trustee Rich asked about the performance bonds and labor and material payment bond requirements for a PWD project and why the bond was denied to a contractor of PWD.

4. Executive Session regarding Labor Union Negotiations. Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(D) labor negotiations, the Board went into executive session to discuss the status of labor union contract negotiations.

A motion was made by Trustee Lunt and seconded by Trustee Libby to go into executive session to discuss the status of labor union contracts negotiations.

A motion was made by Trustee Libby and seconded by Trustee Douglas to come out of executive session.

5. Adjourn.

The Board came out of executive session and adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaticas
Clerk