

**KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 at 7:30 AM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by President Richards.

Trustees present: Frank Richards, President; Ben Murray, Vice-President; Jeff Earickson, Treasurer; J. Michael Talbot, Assistant Treasurer; Sarah Whateley, Clerk; Allan Fuller, Trustee; Amy Stabins, Trustee; Bruce Williams, Trustee

Trustees absent: Denise Bruesewitz, Trustee; Mark McCluskey, Trustee

Also present: Roger Crouse, KWD General Manager; Amy Dyer, KWD Finance Manager; Matt Zetterman, KWD Technology Manager (Remote Access); Benny LaPlante, KWD Service Manager; Jared Bragdon, KWD Distribution Manager (Remote Access); Robbie Bickford, KWD Water Quality Manager (Remote Access); Sue Markatine, KWD Recording Secretary

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

None

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2024.

Motion by Trustee Williams, "to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees' meeting of September 5, 2024," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: Seven in favor, Trustee Talbot abstained, motion carried.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT WARRANT

Motion by Trustee Earickson, "to ratify the September 19, 2024, total warrant of checks released for \$244,073.05," seconded by Trustee Talbot.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: REVIEW OF AUGUST 2024 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trustees were provided with the August 2024 Financial Statements and Accounts Receivable Aging Report, and a brief review was conducted.

On behalf of the Board members, President Richards thanked Ms. Dyer for the review of the financial statements.

ITEM 5: APPROVALS/MOTIONS NEEDED:

A. Approval of Agreement with Proseal for Armory Road Pavement Restoration

The Trustees were provided with a request for authorization memo which included a proposal from one bidder (KWD solicited nine firms) for pavement restoration work due to a water main break at 68

Armory Road, Waterville. Mr. Crouse explained this is an after-the-fact request as it was necessary to complete the paving on this heavily traveled road promptly.

Motion by Trustee Fuller, “to accept the after the fact bid of \$35,000.00 from Proseal, LLC to complete pavement restoration work at 68 Armory Road, Waterville,” seconded by Trustee Stabins.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Agreement with Core & Main for Advance Metering Infrastructure

The Trustees were provided with a request for authorization memo to accept a five-year agreement with Core & Main for KWD’s meter data management software and equipment which includes Sensus Regional Network Interface, Sensus Analytics, and three Base Station warranties. Core & Main is the new Sensus representative in the State of Maine. Mr. Crouse and Mr. LaPlante answered questions from the Trustees regarding this agreement.

Motion by Trustee Williams, “to approve the five-year agreement with Core & Main for Sensus Regional Network Interface, Sensus Analytics, and three Base Station Warranties for \$217,523.81,” seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Recap of Rate Increase Public Hearing and Approval of Proposed Rate Increases and Establishment of a Bulk Water Rate:

- i. 6 Percent on January 1, 2025**
- ii. 8 Percent on January 1, 2026**
- iii. Bulk Water Rate – \$50 Per Transaction Plus \$10 per 1,000 Gallons for All Usage Greater Than 5,000 Gallons**

Mr. Crouse and the Trustees (Trustee Richards, Trustee Earickson, and Trustee Talbot) who attended the Public Hearing held on September 17, 2024, for the proposed rate increases recapped the events of the evening.

Motion by Trustee Earickson, “to affirm the across-the-board water rate increase of six-percent effective January 1, 2025, eight-percent effective January 1, 2026, and the establishment of a bulk water rate of a minimum \$50.00 per transaction plus \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons for all usage greater than 5,000 gallons effective January 1, 2025,” seconded by Trustee Talbot.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6: GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The Trustees were provided with the General Manager’s report, and a brief review was conducted by Mr. Crouse.

Referring to his report, Mr. Crouse provided additional detail regarding his participation in a workgroup lead by the Office of the Public Advocate to evaluate the need for and creation of a low-income water rate assistance program.

On behalf of the Board members, President Richards thanked Mr. Crouse for the review of the General Manager's report.

ITEM 7: TRUSTEE COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND/OR IDEAS

In response to a question from Trustee Fuller, Mr. Bickford updated Board members on the effectiveness of the ongoing PFAS removal pilot project.

Trustee Earickson mentioned there will be a new car wash on Kennedy Memorial Drive. Mr. Crouse stated that, although this will generate more revenue than the average customer, this will not have a significant financial impact.

There was a brief discussion of the recent spill incident of fire-fighting foam containing PFAS which contaminated the environment in Brunswick, Maine, and of PFAS in fire-fighting foam in general.

ITEM 8: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM 9: AS NEEDED: EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 MRSA §405. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

At 8:12 a.m., motion by Trustee Talbot, "to enter Executive Session under MRSA Title 1, Section 405-6C, Disposition of Personal Property," seconded by Trustee Williams.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:25 a.m., President Richards brought the Board out of Executive Session.

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was proposed.

Motion by Trustee Williams, "to authorize the General Manager and Trustee Williams to negotiate the sale of Truck #1 with a starting list price of \$70,000.00," seconded by Trustee Earickson

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to adjourn the meeting," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 a.m.

Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary