

Monday, January 24, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: City Center, Cony Street, Augusta, ME

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Bradley Sawyer, Pat Paradis, Kirsten Hebert, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Cary Colwell, Keith Luke

Absent: Charlotte Warren

Attendees: Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Remote: Brian Tarbuck, Alan Burton, Meredith Strang-Burgess

Guests: none

At 18:00 Knight called the regular board meeting to order. Knight noted that Charlotte, Cary, Brian and he all attended a Hallowell City Council meeting. GAUD made a short presentation to the Council to keep them aware of GAUD activities.

At 18:01

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for December 18, 2023.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:01 Knight asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the financial statements provided to the Board. There were no questions or comments.

At 18:03 Corey provided an update relating to proposed rates. The Board needs to fund the 2024 budget with higher rates that will go into effect on or about June 1, 2024. Customers will see the impacts of the rate increase in their July bills. This gives the District about one additional month of revenue under the proposed rates by sliding the start date from July to June.

Hebert asked whether we billed all of our accounts in arrears or if some bills were in advance. Payne explained that though the rate would start on June 1, 2024 the water customer would be billed for wouldn't start until about the 3rd week of June.

At 18:08, Begin presented project updates. The water main from State Street to the Rail Trail is being installed now. Jackson Avenue (the road to the WWTP) should be finished in May. The Front Street sewer pump station is still not out to bid. Turtle Run should be out to bid in a few weeks. The PFOA / PFAS pilot unit is still operational and collecting data.

The redundant water main for Manchester around Pelton Hill is still in design. The plan is to design it and stay outside the MDOT right of way.

There is a \$1M loan that is 55% loan, 45% forgiven to address lead service lines. \$420k will go to a new vacuum truck.

Stone Street is taking water from Fairview Avenue which is causing icing on the road. We are designing a stormwater project to reduce the amount of water reaching Stone Street. This is part of our efforts to reduce combined sewer overflows as the project will eliminate 5 catch basins from the combined sewer system.

Hummingbird Lane has a 1,700' project to replace leaky drinking water pipes. We will likely pipe-burst the existing pipe and replace the leaky pipe with a 4" HDPE line.

At 18:12, Knight read over Tarbuck's report as Tarbuck's remote connection via Amtrak had pooched. Knight noted that Tarbuck was heading to a two day conference with the New England Water Environment Association where he was participating in a plenary session panel. Tarbuck went to a CATC meeting to learn more about the programs kids were learning there with an eye on recruiting upcoming graduates if possible. Tarbuck was featured in an online

magazine called Undark which ran a story about the costs of PFAS treatment. Begin noted that we hired two new employees, Dwane Bernier and Jonah Waterman.

At 18:17 Begin reviewed a table from the documents provided to the Board that showed the relative impacts of new debt on the District's approximately 5,750 drinking water customers. A 20 year loan for \$1M at current SRF rates works out to \$61k per year. Divide that by 5,750 ratepayers and again by 12 months and the result is an increase of about \$0.88 per month per ratepayer for 20 years to pay off that debt.

Begin pointed out that we have applied for an emerging contaminants grant in the amount of \$4M. If we are awarded the grant, we need to fund a 10% match or \$400k.

At 18:18 Payne provided a financial update. Payne noted these numbers are draft, not final.

Budget Summary 2023		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
12	Sewer	5.0	5.85	118%	5.0	4.85	96%	1.11
12	Stormwater	4.0	4.58	114%	3.1	2.77	89%	1.72
12	Water	5.0	6.18	125%	4.2	3.74	90%	2.01

At 18:20 Corey moved to approve the 2024 trustee goals as presented to this meeting. The motion was seconded by Paradis. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 18:21 Meredith Strang-Burgess provided a communications update. Burgess Advertising and Marketing worked hard to develop a campaign to advertise our need for new employees. GAUD's home page has been updated with videos about the utility and a revamped career page.

At 18:26 Alan Burton discussed HR recruitment efforts. We were able to hire two people. We are hoping that the recruiting campaign will help find some quality candidates.

At 18:28 Sawyer moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Colwell. The motion was approved unanimously.

Monday, February 26, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Sagadahoc Room, Civic Center, Augusta, ME

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Bradley Sawyer, Pat Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke

Absent: Cary Colwell, Charlotte Warren, Kirsten Hebert

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Remote: Alan Burton

Guests: none

At 18:00 Knight called the regular board meeting to order and noted the change in venue due to construction at both 33 Jackson Avenue and 12 Williams Street.

At 18:01

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for January 24, 2024.

M Munson

2nd Paradis

For Unanimous

Against None

At 18:02 Corey noted that the rate committee did not meet but no changes were recommended for Board consideration since the January meeting.

At 18:02 Corey moved to increase the drinking water and fire protection rates in an amount not to exceed 30% with a desired effective date of June 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Munson. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

At 18:03 Corey moved to increase the sewer rates in an amount not to exceed 30% with a desired effective date of June 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Paradis. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Knight noted that the approved motions do not affirm the rates. They merely set the rate setting process in motion. A public hearing to review the rates will be held on April 22, 2024.

At 18:04 Begin updated the Board on current projects. 600' of water main has been installed since last month under Jackson Avenue. The sewer work has been completed. The contract documents for the Front Street sewer pump station have been sent to Maine DEP for review. The Riverside Drive PFAS water treatment pilot is ongoing and PFAS is not significantly penetrating the filter media which is good news. We applied for a \$4M forgiveness loan from the Drinking Water Program (which requires a 10% match) to help pay for the full scale Riverside Drive PFAS treatment. We ordered a new vacuum service truck using money from the Lead Service Line Inventory funding from the Drinking Water Program. We will use it to document the type of materials that GAUD and customer service pipes are made of for drinking water lead compliance. The Fairview stormwater project is in design. This project will take water from western Fairview to Stone Street. Hummingbird Lane is a water main replacement project that is still in design. It will likely be a pipe bursting project. Summer Street replaces a cross country sewer pipe that will move the public infrastructure into the road instead of under several privately owned structures. The budget for this project is \$520k. The structural repairs to the floor / ceiling of the shop at 12 Williams Street is ongoing. Significant repairs have been made. The ground floor and first floor will be coated with a rugged epoxy resin material. The project is over budget but there was no other better time to seal the floor. Personnel will be moved to the first floor (accessible from Arsenal Street).

At 18:12 Sawyer asked about the age of the pipe in Hummingbird Lane. Begin said he would research this and get the information to him. Sawyer asked if we were going to have customers take photos of their plumbing in the basement to help identify lead service lines. The response was that in the cases where records were inconclusive it was our plan to hydroexcavate the private and public drinking water service pipe to visually document the types of pipes in the ground as it was the most certain means of identification for regulatory purposes.

At 18:15 Sawyer noted that he was impressed that there were only about 200 unknown pipes from roughly 5,700 drinking water customers. Sawyer noted that the redundant drinking water pipe to Manchester ranked very high on the Drinking Water Program's backup list for funding. We are hopeful for funding in the next year.

At 18:16 Knight noted that he met with the Winthrop town manager. Winthrop Utilities District's trustees had met with Knight and Tarbuck about a year ago to talk about what, if anything, GAUD could do to support WUD when Dan Wells (WUD manager) retires in a few years. Knight noted that there's no agenda here; just trying to be sure that there is good continuity of operations at WUD as that is a symbiotic relationship with GAUD.

At 18:23 Tarbuck reviewed the status of the floor coatings and how moving people and equipment out of those spaces has had some significant changes on operations. Tarbuck said that he was looking forward to the Board seeing the new space. He also noted that the guys who were impacted by the move never complained at all.

At 18:26 Tarbuck noted that he was on a plenary panel at the NEWEA conference at Copley Place in January. Tarbuck noted that Charlotte Warren has served on the board for 8 years. Tarbuck noted that he was proud that Rick Anair won the Jeff Nixon award at the Maine Water Utilities Association conference. Tarbuck noted that Nicki Pellenz is the new director of the Maine Water Utilities Association. Tarbuck noted that longtime inspector Jim Crowley retired from the Maine DEP and thanked him for his years of service and fair regulation of GAUD.

At 18:31 Corey noted that it was good to see photos of the guys on social media working in the field. Tarbuck said it was hard for the guys to take photos but he was committed to getting them to do more of it going forward to better show ratepayers where their money is being invested.

At 18:35 Payne provided an update of the finances as summarized in the table below:

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
1	Sewer	5.0	0.37	8%	5.0	0.4	8%	0.90
1	Stormwater	4.0	0.40	10%	3.1	0.3	9%	1.50
1	Water	5.0	0.40	8%	4.2	0.3	7%	2.10

18:40 Payne explained the need for the following motion:

Motion: I move to amend the \$1,600,000 Revenue Obligation Note dated March 22, 2023, and awarded to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, Augusta, Maine, by changing the maturity date to March 21, 2025, and further to authorize the Treasurer and Chair of the Board of Trustees to execute all documents necessary to complete said amendment. All other terms and conditions as stated in said Revenue Obligation Note will remain the same.

M Corey	2nd Sawyer	For Unanimous	Against
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18:40 Tarbuck provided the communications update on behalf of Meredith Strang-Burgess. While it is still difficult to recruit, there have been some additional applications for open positions thanks to a strong effort on social media and radio to recruit personnel. Tarbuck noted that GAUD has good benefits for the long run but often that doesn't carry a lot of weight with young people who are more interested in take home pay than long term benefits.

At 18:48 Sawyer moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Corey. The motion was approved unanimously.

Monday, March 18, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Augusta City Center

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Bradley Sawyer, Pat Paradis, Charlotte Warren, Kirsten Hebert, Bob Corey, Cecil Munson

Absent: Cary Colwell, Keith Luke

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Remote: none due to incorrect Zoom link

Guests: none

At 18:00 Knight called the regular board meeting to order.

At 18:01 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for February 26, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Warren	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:02 Knight noted that there was no rate committee meeting update as the rates were approved by the Board to be sent to the public and the PUC and the Public Advocate for consideration on April 22.

18:03 No rate committee update. It was acknowledged that the board previously voted for a 30% rate increase, and that a public hearing would be held on April 22, 2024.

At 18:04 Begin updated the Board on current projects. The water main has been installed and tested in Jackson Avenue, completing the redundant river crossing pipe. The sewer relocation work has been completed, and the duct bank is being installed currently. Pumps have been purchased for the Front Street sewer pump station replacement project with an excavation contract going out to bid soon. Turtle run bids were received and CH Stevenson was awarded the contract for \$227,585. The work is expected to occur during Q2&Q3. Tracking under budget. It was noted that CCC Construction, LLC submitted a bid, however, it was disqualified as it did not meet the bidding requirements. The Riverside Drive PFAS water treatment pilot is ongoing and PFAS is not significantly penetrating the filter media which is good news. We have been piloting the Bonenfant well and the pilot will be moved to the Mainex well soon for hardness removal data. The Fairview stormwater project is at 85% design and we are incorporating East Crescent water main work in preparation of a Stone Street Mill and Fill project. Hummingbird Lane will likely be a pipe burst project, we are still exploring options and designs. Summer Street design is complete, ledge probes are done and hoping to bid in April. We are still exploring depths of private service lines to be rerouted. The structural repairs to the floor / ceiling of the shop at 12 Williams Street is ongoing. Significant repairs have been made. Improvements will continue for future years to improve this space.

At 18:12 General Managers report. Highlights, NEIWPCC meeting to support emergency aid to neighboring utilities. At a NEWEA meeting connected with an odor control expert to help with our trunkline odor management. Supporting use of our Carleton Pond WTF to eventually explore other uses. Working with Friends of Cobbossee to work on our shoreland stabilization near our Trunkline infrastructure. Performed an annual safety training with our newly formed safety council as a result of our retired safety director. Winthrop Utility District is preparing for Dan Wells to retire and how to fill that role. They have been engaging with GAUD for advice or options to consider. March anniversaries: Israel Colpitt 6 yrs, Randi Taylor 26 yrs, Pete Kwiatkowski 34 yrs.

At 18:21 Sawyer inquired if Augusta Water District voted to be a non-investing utility. Brian confirmed we are a non-investing utility, from 1996. PUC rules around main extensions. Augusta water rates were very high in the 1990s so AWD opted out of investing in main extensions.

At 18:22 Ken inquired about a PFAS update. Brian was on a panel on March 6th with the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. The State is exploring a ban on PFAS products. This would be an issue state wide as many products would be taken off the market. The Federal rule is expected in April regarding final PFAS limits in drinking water.

At 18:24 Payne indicated February financials are not complete due to our annual audit work. Knight indicated he met with Tim Gill regarding the audit. No liens this month.

At 18:25 Policy update. Attempting to review about 2-3 policies per month.

- Policy 13 - Replacement of Sewer Services Beneath Traveled Way
- Policy 14 - Plumbing Failure Abatements for Sewer bills
- Policy 26 - NEW - Billing practices and timing

Corey commented, ok with policy 14 and 26. How did GAUD come up with policy 14 formulas? Tarbuck will review and report back by email.

Motion: I move to approve policies 13 & 14 with no changes and policy 26 as presented.			
M Corey	2nd Sawyer	For Unanimous	Against

18:30 Update from Meredith or Alan. Alan is not available, and there were technical difficulties allowing Meredith to conference in. Ken indicated there is FOAA training through Maine Water Utilities if trustees are interested.

18:32 Begin commented on the HR update. Currently down 3 utility workers. We just hired two utility workers and the Scada Technician position remains unfilled as we are utilizing outside services for this work. We interviewed two people to fill the Customer Service Technician position, and we will keep the board updated on the outcome. The radio ads provided some help to gain interest in open positions.

At 18:33 Sawyer moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Munson . The motion was approved unanimously.

Monday, April 22, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Meeting start time on CTV7 is 5:49 minutes into recording

Location: Augusta City Center

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Bradley Sawyer, Pat Paradis, Bob Corey, Cecil Munson, Carrie Colwell

Absent: Charlotte Warren, Kirsten Hebert

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: none

At 18:00 Knight called the rate hearing to order.

Knight explained the ground rules of the meeting including regulatory requirements regarding the rate hearing. Knight noted that there will be no votes on the rates by the Board during the hearing.

The hearing is for proposed rate increases to the sewer utility of 30% and the drinking water utility for 30%. Knight explained that the drinking water rates may be petitioned to the Maine PUC and explained that process.

At 1807 Mike Miranda from 45 Granite Street asked for more information about the water and sewer bills. Mike explained that the water at his location often experienced rusty water. He wanted to know what was being done to improve water quality.

Tarbuck noted that it's hard to know on a case by case basis what the water quality is at any particular location but that the District would take a look at it.

Knight noted that while inflation is high for consumers, it has hit utilities particularly hard. The rate increases reflect the need to address emerging contaminants and high inflation. Knight noted that the District has been very successful in receiving grants. Knight recommended that customers reach out to GAUD personnel to ask for assistance.

At 1811 Phil Hart from Highridge Drive noted that his rates have increased 28% since 2017. He wanted the board to know that people on social security will struggle to pay for these increased expenses. He stressed that it makes it difficult for people on fixed incomes to pay these increasingly higher rates. He asked the Board to consider the proposed rates and consider the people that can't afford the 30% increase in the rates. As a councilor in Gardiner he saw that people had lost their homes over higher costs of living and was sensitive to their needs. Hart emphasized that he was not there to beat anyone up or anything, he just hoped the Board would consider how this increase will impact people.

Knight asked management to explain what the 30% rate increases mean in dollars. Tarbuck said that a customer who used 5 hundred cubic feet of water per month would see about \$20 per month compared to 2023 water and wastewater bills.

Corey thanked everyone for attending the hearing. Corey noted that setting rates started 10 months earlier and spent a great deal of time reviewing costs and rates needed to fund those costs. Corey noted that the rates needed to be much higher, particularly for drinking water to replace pipes that are over 100 years old.

At 1823 Virginia Goodlett from Sewall Street noted that she had spent time to better understand the District's financial statements. She noted that each year the notices about the rates to the public are more or less boilerplate. She was curious about the specific projects that would be done with the increase in revenue. Payne explained that the primary need for the rates is for infrastructure replacement. Knight explained that the regulatory standards require safe drinking water and clean wastewater disposal. The regulations continue to put pressure on the District. The primary goal is clean safe drinking water. Virginia emphasized that the amount of the increase is becoming a tipping point and it's a large enough increase to require a higher degree of specificity. Virginia asked for less of a boilerplate flier and have one instead that refers to specific projects.

Sawyer noted that in 2016, the cost for a mile of pipe was about \$1M. The cost now for a mile of pipe is about \$2.5M. Those costs continue to increase. Sawyer noted that the revenue generated from the ratepayers doesn't go to shareholders or a private company, they're reinvested locally.

Begin described a recent bid for work as an example of the costs of doing work. The cost per foot to install 16" water main was \$1,200 per foot. That portion of the bid was rejected due to the high cost. Begin explained that relining sewer and stormwater pipe is saving ratepayers a lot of money.

Virginia explained that this proposed rate increase adds to a feeling of costs that continue to impact people.

At 1836 Mike Miranda asked a follow up question regarding rate increases in 2025 and subsequent years. Knight reemphasized that the Board does not take the rate increases lightly and that inflationary pressures and cost increases to utilities are significantly higher than they were just a few years ago. Knight said that it was too hard to predict today what future financial needs would be.

At 1838 Knight closed the public hearing and opened the Board meeting.

Sawyer asked attendees to continue to be involved in the workings of the District and attend meetings and help the Board work through these issues.

At 1842 Knight noted that Charlotte Warren, Meredith Strang-Burgess and Alan Burton were online.

At 18:43 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for March 18, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:43 Begin updated the Board on current projects. Jackson Avenue is nearing completion. There will need to be pipe configuration changes to feed the Hospital Street drinking water booster pump station so it can be fed from two different direction. The Front Street pump station is still being designed. We are waiting for easements from the City of Augusta and updates from Central Maine Power regarding the electrical service changes needed. Turtle Run is a small drinking water main project in Manchester. It will be done by CH Stevenson for approximately \$344k. There is a project at Fairview Avenue to reduce icing on Stone Street in the winter. MDOT will mill and fill Stone Street this year so we have to do the work now to get out of the way of MDOT's work. The project only received one bidder, Pratt & Sons, in the amount of \$579k. This work will install 1,200 feet of pipe and 4 catch basins. Summer Street is a project that needs to be done to repair very old pipe and remedy some right of way infrastructure conflicts.

At 19:01 Tarbuck noted the dates for rate increases presuming rates are set to go into effect on or about June 1. Knight noted that we should explain what we're spending the rates on and provide some additional information including the rate calendar.

At 19:02 Begin explained the need for a new generator and electrical service for the wastewater treatment plant. The approximate cost to install a 800kW generator and main distribution panel will cost nearly \$3M. Some of the electrical systems are nearly 60 years old. The service to the plant is rated at 2,000 amps. Begin noted that while moving the power underground will reduce the risk of losing power at the plant the larger threat could be flooding. We have seen more flooding lately and modeling forecasts higher water levels in the future.

At 19:10 Tarbuck presented highlights from the General Manager's report. Tarbuck noted that he and Knight went to a Winthrop town council meeting to discuss whether or not the District had a role to play in the operation of Winthrop Utilities District when current Superintendent Dan Wells retires in a few years. Knight added that the District is here if and when needed to support a neighboring utility. Tarbuck noted that Casella provided notice that they would terminate our contract to dispose of sludge at the end of April. The District has some options that are being reviewed now for a decision by the end of the month. Tarbuck explained a table that represents the proposed drinking water PFAS standards. The District has one site that exceeds the proposed limit. One of the options to consider is to take the wells that exceed the limit out of service. The cost to treat water from the wells that exceed the proposed limits is about \$5M in capital costs. We have applied for a \$4M grant from the Drinking Water Program to help offset those costs.

At 19:22 Payne presented financial statements for both February and March, 2024.

Budget Summary		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
3	Sewer	5.8	1.38	24%	5.5	1.2	22%	1.08
3	Stormwater	4.1	1.00	24%	3.1	0.7	21%	2.66
3	Water	5.2	1.21	23%	4.4	0.9	21%	2.73

At 19:24 Corey noted that there are 14 liens outstanding, none of which require Board action at this time. The total amount of outstanding liens is \$6,429. Of that amount, \$3,700 represents the liens with the remainder representing fees and interest. This represents liens of about one third of one percent of customers.

At 19:25 the Board reviewed the following policies:

Motion: I move to approve policies 16, 17 and 18.			
M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against None

19:29 Meredith Strang-Burgess provided a communications update. The first quarter focused on the employment recruitment campaign on both social media and targeted radio advertising. The annual water quality report is done and awaiting approval by the regulatory agency. The summer newsletter is in process now. Some Board members will be spotlighted this summer to highlight why people serve on the Board and general interests.

19:33 Sawyer moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Corey. The motion was approved unanimously.

Monday, May 20, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Meeting start time on CTV7 is 5:03 minutes into recording

Location: Augusta City Center

Trustees present: Kirsten Hebert, Bradley Sawyer, Pat Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke

Absent: Ken Knight, Charlotte Warren, Carrie Colwell

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Alan Burton

At 18:00 Paradis called the meeting to order.

There were no agenda additions.

At 18:01 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for April 22, 2024.

M Corey

2nd Munson

For Unanimous

Against None

At 18:02 Corey updated the Board regarding rates. The public hearing was last month. Those who attended asked good questions which were answered by the Board. Water used after June 20 will be subject to the revised rates.

At 18:03 Corey made the following motion:

Motion 2: I move that we certify and approve the revised schedule of rates for drinking water service, fire protection service, sewer service and stormwater service, which has been presented to this meeting and recorded with the minutes, to go into effect on or about June 1, 2024, and continuing until such time as the schedule of rates is modified by vote of the Trustees. I further move that the Assistant Treasurer, in addition to the Treasurer, be authorized and directed to apply the schedule of rates, along with all fees and charges otherwise authorized by the District or by State statute, to all persons, entities and property receiving services from the District, and to thereafter collect the sums due from said persons and entities and to take all appropriate action related to the collection of said sums, including the preparation and filing of notices and liens and allowed by the District's Charter and State law.

M Corey

2nd Sawyer

For Unanimous

Against

Paradis thanked the rate committee (Hebert, Munson, Corey, Payne, Tarbuck) for its efforts to assess financial conditions and make recommendations to full board regarding rates.

At 18:05 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The pipes underneath the river and Jackson Avenue have been installed. Paving for Jackson Avenue will be done in June. The Front Street sewer pump station will be out to bid in early June. Highland Avenue won't be complete until the abandoned aerial utility poles have been removed so the sidewalk can be installed. Turtle Run will be starting in July. The PFAS pilot testing unit will be moved from the Bonenfant well to the Mainex well in June. This testing will also consider the need to remove hardness from the Mainex well. Trees are being removed along the Stone Street and Fairview Avenue project which aims to prevent stormwater from flowing onto Stone Street in the winter and creating an icing hazard. Summer Street is nearly ready for bidding apart from securing an easement from a property owner. The secondary clarifier upgrade at the wastewater plant is a \$450k system that will be installed this summer. The other significant expense at the plant includes upgrades needed to the pressure swing adsorption system which removes nitrogen and other gases from ambient air leaving only oxygen which is needed for the aeration system.

The road crew has been very busy adjusting structures for planned paving projects (MDOT and local communities). Hydrants will be flushed this week. A lot of money has been invested to improve reliability of the emergency standby generators.

At 18:12 Tarbuck provided the General Manager's report. Tarbuck provided an update from a recent conference in Rhode Island. The meeting included discussions with large New England utilities and efforts to improve interoperability between states using the existing mutual aid WARN system. The electric Hyundai Kona leases expire this month and will be returned. Three interns started this week: Charlotte Harper-Cunningham, Theo Colvin and Allie LaBelle. The interns will help with easements and updating our grease interceptor database. Pat Gilbert will be working with restaurants to improve grease removal.

At 18:17 Tarbuck noted that sludge used to go to Casella for disposal for about 30 years. Casella notified GAUD in early April that they were unilaterally changing the terms of their contract. Facility manager John Cummons investigated alternatives and recommended disposing of sludge at Waste Management in Norridgewock. The Norridgewock facility prices competitively and has a proposal to manage sludge disposal that meets the needs of the landfill and contains PFAS on site. The pivot to Waste Management was seamless.

At 18:23 Tarbuck provided the financial updates as Mike Payne was on vacation. Each division has revenue that slightly exceeds expenses. Cash is strong as it builds until the autumn debt payments are made. Revenue is tracking as planned for 33%

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
4	Sewer	5.8	1.84	32%	5.5	1.6	29%	1.24
4	Stormwater	4.1	1.37	33%	3.1	0.9	28%	2.34
4	Water	5.2	1.63	31%	4.4	1.3	29%	2.45

At 18:26 Tarbuck reviewed the policies (19, 20 and 24) for consideration by the Board.

1. Policy 19 - undesignated bill payments last reviewed 2016 - changes suggested
2. Policy 20 - short term inter-fund borrowing last reviewed 2017 - no changes suggested
3. Policy 24 - Post Issuance Compliance Policy - no changes suggested

Motion: I move to approve policies 19, 20 and 24.

M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against
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At 18:27 Tarbuck explained the need from the Board to allow Tarbuck to apply for a Northern Border Regional Commission grant using the following motion.

Motion: I move that Brian Tarbuck, who is the General Manager, is empowered to act on behalf of Greater Augusta Utility District as the Authorized Official per the resolution presented at this meeting.

M Sawyer	2nd Hebert	For	Against
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At 18:30 Corey noted that it would be helpful to mirror the Planning Board's website by archiving the information provided to the Board for each meeting on the GAUD website.

At 18:33 Tarbuck noted that reports from an intensive employee hiring campaign and the quarterly digital social media status are included.

At 18:35 Alan Burton provided an update regarding human resources activities. The union contract expires on December 31, 2024 so it is being reviewed now to determine the proposals that management would like to bring to the table when negotiations begin in the fall. In addition to the general manager's review, three 360 performance reviews will be done through October. The personnel policy manual is being updated to reflect changes in practices and rule changes. Work continues to hire people. No people have been lost to other positions or retirements recently. Paradis noted that his

interactions with the crews out in the field are very polite and cordial. He stressed that they work in difficult conditions, do great work and felt that they deserved recognition for those efforts.

18:37 Sawyer moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Corey. The motion was approved unanimously.

Monday, June 24, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Meeting start time on CTV7 is 5:03 minutes into recording

Location: Augusta City Center

Trustees present: Charlotte Warren, Bradley Sawyer, Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke

Absent: Kirsten Hebert, Carrie Colwell

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Alan Burton, Mike Hodgins,

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order.

There were no agenda additions.

At 18:01 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for May 20, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:02 Mr. Lindsay D'Anna, Director of Biosolids Business Development for Waste Management, explained a proposed sludge drying and disposal system that will be installed in the next couple of years at Waste Management's landfill facility in Norridgewock. The proposal provides a closed loop for sludge disposal that uses biogas generated by the landfill which will be burned to create 3.2 MW of electricity to help dry sludge before it is landfilled. The project is a \$35M investment. It will be able to process 200 wet tons of sludge which will eliminate about 150 tons of water from the sludge before it will be landfilled. A second project will install a foam fractionation treatment system for the facility's leachate and condensate from the sludge drying process. The system should be fully operational by July, 2026.

At 18:18 John Cummons, GAUD assistant Chief Engineer, provided his thoughts on the project.

At 18:20 Corey noted that the next rate committee meeting will be in July. Corey noted that MPUC approved the 30% water rate increase at the end of May. Customers will first see the impacts of the 30% water and 30% sewer increases in their August bills. Corey noted that the 2025 budget will be approved in December, 2024. Tarbuck explained that the rate models used to determine how to pay for operations haven't been updated since 2011. An updated model will provide additional rate options that consider usage volumes and different tier based rates.

At 18:26 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. Jackson Avenue will be paved in June. The Front Street sewer pump station will be due in July. Aerial utilities have been moved on Highland Avenue so the sidewalk can be installed. Turtle Run (Winthrop, near the White Duck restaurant) will be starting in the fall. The PFAS pilot testing unit will be moved from the Bonenfant well to the Mainex well in July. This testing will also consider the need to remove hardness from the Mainex well. Five combined sewer catch basins have been reviewed as part of the Fairview Avenue project which aims to prevent stormwater from flowing onto Stone Street in the winter and creating an icing hazard. Summer Street is nearly ready for bidding apart from securing an easement from a property owner. The secondary clarifier upgrade at the wastewater plant is a \$450k system that will be installed this summer. The other significant expense at the plant includes upgrades needed to the pressure swing adsorption system which removes nitrogen and other gases from ambient air leaving only oxygen which is needed for the aeration system.

The road crew has been working hard to adjust structures prior to summer paving work with particular effort on Bangor, Stone and Hospital Streets.

A contractor installing solar panels on the northwest corner of the airport struck a 24" ductile iron drinking water main. The location of the main had been marked earlier in the year but the contractor failed to keep the location marked and struck it with an excavator. It is a significant effort to repair this damage as there are a lot of valves to operate and it results in system dynamics that are uncommon. This allows for some good training for our crew and helps document how we did the work for our successors.

At 18:34 Tarbuck provided the General Manager's report. The consumer confidence report is online. Tarbuck noted the passing of former trustee Dick Bachelder. Maia Ferris passed the professional engineering exam. Documents that are provided to the Board for meetings are now being archived on the GAUD trustees site. The operations network and business network are now completely separated per best practices for cybersecurity. Tarbuck noted that the 2nd floor of the 1926 shop building next door could be renovated for a public meeting space. The Board agreed. Tarbuck will move forward to make the improvements for about \$20k.

At 18:44 Corey moved to authorize spending up to \$20k to modify the space into a conference room. Warren seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board moved to allow Tarbuck to act on the Board's behalf to continue with the process of seeking remuneration from 3M and DuPont for damages incurred due to PFAS contamination.

Motion: I move to adopt a resolution authorizing Brian Tarbuck to sign and submit the Claims Forms for the 3M and DuPont settlement actions on behalf of the Greater Augusta Utility District.

M Sawyer	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against
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At 18:46 Payne provided the financial updates. Each division has revenue that slightly exceeds expenses. Cash is strong as it builds until the autumn debt payments are made. Revenue is tracking closely to the 42% target.

Budget Summary		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
5	Sewer	5.8	2.38	41%	5.5	2.1	38%	1.14
5	Stormwater	4.1	1.75	42%	3.1	1.1	36%	3.12
5	Water	5.2	2.13	41%	4.4	1.7	38%	2.59

At 18:50 Tarbuck reviewed policies 6, (Sewer and Stormwater Main Extensions), and policy 7, Water Main Extensions. No changes are needed or recommended.

Motion: I move to approve policies 6, and 7 as presented to this meeting.

M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against
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At 18:52 Meredith Strang-Burgess attempted to connect with the Board remotely but her connection was muted.

At 18:53 Burton explained current HR efforts including preparing for union negotiations later in the year. A couple of 360 personnel reviews are ongoing. There will be an opening at the wastewater plant in the fall for a full time maintenance specialist.

Motion: I move to enter executive session to discuss certain policies with legal counsel pursuant to MRS Title 1 Chapter 13 subchapter 1 §405 6 E.

M Sawyer	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against
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At 19:15 Sawyer noted with gratitude and appreciation for Charlotte Warren's eight years of service as a board member of the Greater Augusta Utility District that this body stand adjourned. The motion was seconded by Paradis. The motion was approved unanimously.

Monday, July 15, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Meeting start time on CTV7 is 5 minutes into recording

Location: Augusta City Center

Trustees present: Kirsten Hebert, Bradley Sawyer, Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Cary Colwell, Keith Luke

Absent:

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Alan Burton

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order.

There were no agenda additions.

At 18:01 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for June 24, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:01 Corey reminded the Board that the rate increases for water and sewer of 30% in each division has been approved and customers will see the impacts of those increases in their August invoices for service. The website has been updated to reflect the new rates. Tarbuck met with Raftelis to update the sewer, stormwater and drinking water rate models which have not been updated in years. October 21 is the regular board meeting where a draft budget will be presented with the goal of a final budget and board vote at the December 16 meeting.

At 18:04 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility Crossing project is nearing the end with final pavement placement at the wastewater treatment plant. The new drinking water pipe that starts at State Street, goes under the river and ends at Hospital Street needs to be connected to the Hospital Street pump station. A \$49,500 contract for that work has been awarded to CH Stevenson. The fiber buildout is ongoing but should be done by the end of the year. The Front Street sewer pump station replacement project has been put out to bid. The project is scheduled to be complete by July, 2025. The PFAS pilot project has pivoted to test water from the MainEx well which includes hardness removal as well as PFAS removal. Fairview Avenue is done. 5 catch basins were removed from the sewer system which is in keeping with our Long Term Control Plan for reducing combined sewer overflow discharges to the Kennebec River. The Fairview Avenue project also remedied some back yard flooding issues and should reduce icing on Stone Street as a result. Summer Street is out to bid with a planned completion date in 2025. This project will remove some complicated old sewer infrastructure that is very difficult to maintain and is located under some private structures with no easements. Bangor Street sewer will be relined by Insituform at a cost of \$769,600 for 11,550' of pipe. This project had a budget of over \$1M so we will discuss additional necessary work with Insituform to improve as much infrastructure as possible. For comparison, an open cut excavation of this magnitude would cost about \$4.5M. Front Street is the subject of significant investment to improve the condition of the existing manholes by relining them with epoxy coating with an in-house crew. At the wastewater plant, the secondary clarifier project will be out to bid by August.

Upgrades at Trunklines 2 and 4 are being designed in house. The PFAS pilot project has been done with help from many of our crews working very well together. We received a \$20,000 security grant which we plan to spend by the end of the year. The lead service line inventory project is moving along very well and has resulted in significant improvements to our geographic information system. The 24" water pipe that was recently damaged was successfully repaired. It was a significant investment that required a great deal of advance planning and monitoring during the work.

Recent intense rain caused at least one drain manhole to come off its frame on Western Avenue. About ½" of rain fell in about 5 minutes.

At 18:17 Tarbuck provided the General Manager's report. Tarbuck noted that he had been remiss in recognizing monthly employment anniversaries due in part to a software issue. Tarbuck presented a few months of employment anniversaries and will be sure to include these going forward. Tarbuck noted that the sanitary survey of the drinking water division will take place next week as part of the routine three year inspection cycle.

At 18:27 Payne provided the financial updates. Each division has revenue that slightly exceeds expenses. Cash is strong as it builds until the autumn debt payments are made. Revenue is tracking closely to the 50% target.

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
6	Sewer	5.8	2.77	48%	5.5	2.5	45%	0.85
6	Stormwater	4.1	2.05	50%	3.1	1.3	44%	3.17
6	Water	5.2	2.50	48%	4.4	2.0	46%	2.56

At 18:30 Tarbuck reviewed policy 22 relating to liens and foreclosures.

Motion: I move to approve the revisions to policy 22 as presented to this meeting.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:32 Sawyer suggested a friendly amendment to Policy 22, under option 3, for the Board to be notified prior to management's discretion to write off foreclosure expenses of \$500 or less upon termination of the foreclosure process. Amendment accepted.

At 18:33 Tarbuck discussed the proposed use of fiber optic conduits beneath the Kennebec. Tarbuck suggested that a policy be created to describe how the conduits would be used and fees for use.

At 18:40 Tarbuck shared a video that was created by Meredith Strang-Burgess due to recent issues with Zoom. Unfortunately, the video was very quiet and couldn't be heard. Tarbuck forwarded the video to Trustees. Knight noted that the next meeting in August will not be at City Center but will be at GAUD's office above the shop area in the Arsenal Street garage.

At 18:42 Burton explained current HR efforts including preparing for union negotiations later in the year. Three 360 personnel reviews are ongoing. There are two open Utility Worker 2 open positions. Job descriptions have been updated for positions at the wastewater treatment plant. Health insurance options are being reviewed for the 2025 budget.

At 18:43 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against None

Monday, August 19, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke

Absent: Kirsten Hebert, Bradley Sawyer, Cary Colwell

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne, John Cummons

Guests: Alan Burton, Meredith Strang-Burgess (remote)

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order.

There were no agenda additions.

At 18:01 the Board voted on the prior month’s meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for July 15, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:01 Corey provided an update from the rate committee. The committee met on July 31 with Dave Fox from Raftelis. We are waiting for a proposal from Raftelis to model the water, sewer and drinking water rates. Corey noted that the Board has addressed a request received at the public hearing for more information about Board business. The trustees page of the website includes all of the past agendas and other Board information from 2024.

At 18:20 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The low bid to complete the Front Street sewer pump station went to Gendron Corporation. Their work will start in November and will be done by June, 2025. The cost of Gendron’s work is just under \$2.0M. About \$2.0M of the \$2.2M will be paid for by a DEP grant. Pilot testing at Riverside Drive for both PFAS and hardness removal is ongoing. The Ion exchange media and Organoclay product seems to be working better than granular activated carbon. The board expressed an interest in visiting the pilot plant while it is still on site. The pivot on the Hummingbird project is to connect the existing connected houses directly from Riverside Drive instead of continuing to supply drinking water to those houses from their back yards. Work is ongoing with customers to explain this new solution and so far, it has been well received.

The Summer Street sewer replacement project will begin in the spring of 2025. Aceto Earthworks from Sabattus submitted the lowest cost bid of \$350k. This will also remove 4 or 5 combined sewer basins out of the sewer and convert them to stormwater which helps with our CSO Long Term Control Plan. This project will remove sewers that go under buildings and off road and move those connections into the road. This is part of a long term plan to eliminate these overly complex connections that are really difficult to work on.

Insituform won the sewer and stormwater pipe relining contract with a bid of \$769,600 for 11,500’ of pipe. Due to Summer Street becoming a 2025 capital project, we opted to expand the relining effort to include an additional 4,745’ on Davenport and Front Streets at a cost of \$235,525.

At 18:36 Keith Luke joined the meeting.

Begin explained the recoating of the top of one of the Winthrop Hill water storage tanks would commence soon. Marcel Payeur from Maine won the contract at a price of \$236k which exceeded the budget by about \$100k.

A stormwater pipe from Western Avenue to the former Buker School was ‘slip lined’ to allow it to convey stormwater. The existing galvanized stormwater pipe remained in place.

The wastewater treatment plant has received some much needed updates including work on the pressure swing adsorption system used to strip gas out of ambient air to preferentially select the oxygen needed for wastewater aeration. Secondary clarifier #3 will be significantly updated with a new gearbox and drive assembly for the scraper arm and new footbridge supports. The work will be done by Northeast Earth Mechanics on a low bid of \$158k. The equipment was purchased in advance for \$160k.

At 18:42 Tarbuck provided the General Manager's report. Tarbuck recognized the efforts of summer interns Silas Bartol, Theo Colvin, Charlotte Harper-Cunningham, Allie LaBelle and Kasey Mushlit. Interns always bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the organization.

The drinking water system is inspected every three years for Safe Drinking Water Act compliance by the Maine Drinking Water Program. The inspection took place on July 24th. A final report will be provided soon.

The 3rd IronMan event was successful. GAUD tests the water in the river for bacteria for this event. The running event goes through the wastewater plant driveway. Paradis noted that when he was growing up in Augusta that the river was in poor condition and that the improvements made over the years to bring it to swimmable condition is worth celebrating.

Cybersecurity is being ramped up for utilities, particularly on the drinking water side. A draft cybersecurity policy will be provided at the September meeting.

Tarbuck noted that NEIWPC has applied for a grant to conduct PFAS research. GAUD's role in this to date is to support this application by offering to potentially reuse the GF Laurin abandoned water filtration plant for PFAS research. No commitment has been made as it's just in the application stage.

At 19:00 Corey asked if there were any updates for GAUD relating to PFAS class action lawsuits. GAUD didn't get particularly impaired by PFAS and this may reduce any payments from one of the ongoing lawsuits.

At 19:00 Payne provided the financial updates. Each division has revenue that slightly exceeds expenses. Cash is strong as it builds until the autumn debt payments are made. Revenue is tracking exactly to the 58% target. Expenses are all below budget at this point in time.

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
7	Sewer	5.8	3.34	58%	5.5	2.9	52%	0.58
7	Stormwater	4.1	2.40	58%	3.1	1.6	51%	3.33
7	Water	5.2	3.02	58%	4.4	2.4	55%	2.77

At 19:05 Tarbuck discussed whether or not the temporary closure of the camper wastewater dump station should be made permanent. Some individuals have requested that this free service be reinstated. Tarbuck wanted to discuss the pros and cons of providing this service with the board.

John Cummons estimated that about 10,000 gallons of camper waste was discharged. The primary operational issues are that some campers create a mess which needs to be cleaned by GAUD operators. The site is difficult to get into and out of and sometimes campers impede deliveries.

The board discussed the merits of providing the service versus the operational issues. The board asked for some additional information about how other utilities provide these services.

At 19:32 Meredith Strang-Burgess provided a public relations update. In quarter 2, Facebook finally reached 1,000 fans! The board discussed the upcoming October meetings.

At 19:43 Burton explained current HR efforts including preparing for union negotiations later in the year. One utility worker has been hired. The wastewater plant is looking for an operator and train them up so existing operators could become maintenance or laboratory specialists.

At 19:45 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

Monday, September 16, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke, Kara Tudman Walker, Keith Taylor, Kirsten Hebert, Bradley Sawyer

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Alan Burton, Meredith Strang-Burgess (remote), Maia Ferris (remote), Randi Taylor (Remote)

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order.

There were no agenda additions.

At 18:03 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for August 19, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:03 Corey provided an update from the rate committee. The committee met on September 10th to prepare for the October 23, planning meeting. It was also noted that staff is hosting the time honored tradition of CIP "Death Match" to see which projects will advance to the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan. Reminder of the October 21st board meeting and the October 23rd planning meeting.

At 18:04 Payne briefly summarized we are working on the cash forecast, various rate models, 2025 O&M budget along with our existing debit service and where our cash reserves will be. Corey mentioned that the rate committee will be meeting prior to the October 21 board meeting.

At 18:06 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility crossing project is wrapping up with the first 4 contracts. Contract 5 remains with piping improvements at the Hospital Street Booster Station. It was mentioned that we are still in the planning phase with the fiber communications buildout across the river.

Front Street Pumping Station is mostly funded with grant money, and the new station will be flood proof. The project will start construction in November in 2024. We are repurposing a control building located on the rail trail to support the new pump station. The various combined sewer overflow (CSO) phases were briefly discussed.

Highland Avenue is wrapping up, the final paving remains on the sidewalk. A project kick off meeting for Turtle Run was held prior to the start of construction in late September. We are trying to coordinate around events happening in the area.

Riverside Drive PFAS update, piloting ongoing. The granular activated carbon seems to be expiring faster than the ion exchange media and organoclay media. This effort will be used to design a full scale treatment system and understand our long term O&M costs. There was mention of the ongoing PFAS Lawsuit and how the grant funding worked within this framework as well as how other states compare to Maine.

Fairview Avenue we are finalizing some pavement issues.

Hummingbird lane, abandoned 1,700 linear feet of 6" cast iron cross country water main and run new service lines to the individual homes.

The Bangor Street lining is growing, our original budget was \$769,600 and we increased to \$1.03 million with the addition of Davenport, Front Street and Penobscot. We are about 40% complete with the work. We increased the budget this year knowing the Summer Street work would be pushed to 2025.

The top of one of the two Winthrop Hill water storage tanks was sealed and painted to prevent cracks in the concrete from opening up during freezing conditions.

Updates at the wastewater treatment plant included the recommissioning of the Driox system (liquid oxygen delivered to the site and stored in a tank) that has not been used for years. This is in preparation to take our molecular sieves offline for maintenance. The sieves are part of the pressure swing adsorption system which makes it possible to turn ambient air into pure oxygen which is subsequently injected into our secondary treatment process. The secondary clarifier project is ready to go, pending equipment delivery.

The cross country repair near Penobscot Street was also relined under our ongoing lining contract. Brooks and St. Catherine Streets are in the planning stages for a 2025 City of Augusta Road Rebuild.

At 18:35 Tarbuck provided the General Manager's report. Tarbuck recognized Rebecca Hughes with 22 years of service, John Mills with 21 years of service and Julie Haas with 1 year of service. Colton Miller joined us on August 29th as a utility worker.

At 18:37 Tarbuck mentioned CIP "deathmatch" is underway to plan our 2025 capital projects. Tarbuck explained our efforts to tighten up our cybersecurity working with CISA.

At 18:40 Tarbuck provided an update on the camper dump station. We will likely postpone the use of the camper dump until we can improve the site with controlled gate access at the WWTF. We don't have the staff to manage the use of the dump site and we don't generate revenue by providing this service. Russell Hubbard provided public comment. Russ's background as a plumber and potential camper owner advocated for opening up the camper dump station at the treatment plant. Russ indicated that is not a lot of sewerage compared to the average daily flow received at the plant. Hebert suggested placing notice on our website that our camper dump station is currently closed, or find an appropriate way to communicate to the public. There was a general acknowledgement that there is a benefit to the public to maintain a camper dump station. Management is evaluating options including providing the service at a cost or reconfiguring our current arrangement so it is more suitable for public use.

At 19:00 Tarbuck mentioned that he got a helicopter ride with other State agencies. Walker mentioned that the helicopter tour was a thank you to participants in a statewide national guard/MEMA exercise regarding response to weapons of mass destruction and impacts to infrastructure. It was an opportunity to network and communicate amongst federal/state/local partners.

At 19:03 Payne provided the financial updates. Each division has revenue that slightly exceeds expenses. Cash is strong as it builds until the autumn debt payments are made. Water revenue is tracking higher than normal due to grant funds received for the river crossing project. A brief explanation was given for why our sewer division cash flow dips below zero in the fall, due to debt payments.

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
8	Sewer	5.8	4.13	71%	5.5	3.5	64%	0.82
8	Stormwater	4.1	2.81	68%	3.1	1.7	54%	3.64
8	Water	5.2	4.47	86%	4.4	2.8	64%	3.94

19:08 Paradis asked if we are retiring any bonds soon. Tarbuck mentioned some debt is dropping off in 2030 related to the CSO phase III Bond Brook project.

At 19:09 Meredith Strang-Burgess provided a public relations update. There was a noticeable echo and feedback with the sound system. Meredith is working on the planning meeting agenda for October 23 and the fall newsletter. Meredith would like to get a bio and photo of the two new board members.

At 19:12 Burton explained current HR efforts including ongoing 360 reviews . GMs review will occur in October. Prepping for union negotiations. There are 3 open positions; (2) utility workers, (1) WWTF operator. Also working on personnel policy manual updates.

At 19:14 request for public comment, but none received.

At 19:14 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Sawyer	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

Monday, October 21, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke, Kara Tudman Walker, Keith Taylor, Bradley Sawyer

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne, Maia Ferris

Guests: Alan Burton, Meredith Strang-Burgess (remote), Randi Taylor (Remote)

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order.

There were no agenda additions.

At 18:02 Condolences.

At 18:02 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for September 16, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Sawyer	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:03 Corey provided an update from the rate committee. The committee met on October 17th to review 2025 budget needs. Corey thanked Mike for putting the draft budget together for discussion.

At 18:03 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility crossing project is wrapping up the first 4 contracts. Contract 5, \$50,000, will improve pipes going into the Hospital Street drinking water pressure booster station. Fiber communications are still in the planning phase to build out across the river.

A preconstruction meeting was held to review the Front Street wastewater pump station. Construction will begin in late October/early November. City and Trail representatives agreed to allow the closure of the rail trail from IF&W on Front Street to just beneath Memorial Bridge. This will help advance construction through the winter months. The project should be complete by May/June 2025.

Highland Avenue is complete.

The Turtle Run and Island Park water main has been installed. Water services will be installed after satisfactory bacteria results are received. This work should be completed over the next few weeks.

Fairview Avenue is complete, pending final payments.

The design for Hummingbird Lane includes abandoning 1,700 linear feet of 6" cast iron cross country water main in favor of installing new services to the existing water main on Riverside Drive. Ledge was quantified for the work. The work will be out to bid in November.

The Bangor Street sewer main lining project is 90% complete with nearly 3 miles of liner installed this year by Insituform. This effort will be wrapping up in a couple weeks.

At 18:08 Begin reported that the molecular sieve on the pressure swing adsorption system at the wastewater plant is being re-bedded. This system preferentially selects oxygen from the ambient air which is then forced into the aeration chambers between the primary and secondary clarifiers. This effort followed the commissioning of the drix backup system. Drix is oxygen that is purchased in bulk, not created on site. The secondary clarifier upgrade is still pending due to delays with equipment deliveries.

At 18:09 Begin reported that the District is reducing the work scope of Brooks and St. Catherine Streets as the infrastructure has not reached its useful life, despite this being a road reconstruction effort by the City. Begin confirmed to Sawyer that the White Duck Restaurant was a GAUD customer.

At 18:11 Tarbuck provided the General Manager's report. Tarbuck recognized Bob Higgins with 7 years of service, Troy Maheux with 6 years of service and Joseph Perkins-McDonald with 2 weeks of service. Tarbuck acknowledged the much

deserved retirement of Peter Godfrey who worked at our wastewater plant in various roles of operations and maintenance.

At 18:13 Tarbuck explained our efforts to tighten up our cybersecurity policy and our efforts with CISA, and our continued efforts to make the District more resilient. Tarbuck acknowledged staff efforts to work through the Kennebec County ARPA funding, and commented on the county removing \$100,000 from the \$3.1 million. There was a discussion about how the County is asking other recipients for money back from their obligations. There is a strong push to augment the County's budget with unspent ARPA funds, and a motivation to commit all funding prior to December 2024. Paradis mentioned that we had a good initial meeting with the county at the start of the funding support.

At 18:19 Tarbuck acknowledged the NEWEA Keogh Award to be presented to the District at the NEWEA annual conference in January.

At 18:19 Corey inquired about an update from Raftelis. David Fox of Raftelis is not responding to follow up emails from Tarbuck. Tarbuck will continue to reach out to David Fox.

At 18:22 Maia Ferris updated the board on our PFAS piloting efforts in response to changing EPA limits. It was found that GAC expired quicker than the ion exchange and organoclay media. Our PFAS pilot operated from December 2023 to October 2024, provided by Blueleaf consulting. Corey asked about funding. Tarbuck/Begin responded that we received a \$200k grant for the piloting efforts and loan forgiveness package of \$4M forgiveness and 10% match, and a second application is in for another \$4M forgiveness package. Taylor mentioned that this effort is very similar to the steps Hallowell Water District has taken. Many board members feel the District is taking the appropriate steps to leverage funding and understand what a full scale treatment plant would cost. Munson inquired about where the State is regarding PFAS limits. Sawyer mentioned the State needs to meet the more stringent EPA limits and that rule making is likely to continue. The State used the sum of 6 in lieu of the Federal regulation on individual compounds. Tarbuck recognized Maia Ferris' extraordinary efforts following this.

At 18:30 Ferris presented an update on District efforts regarding lead service line Inventory. Ferris reported that EPA/State guidance has been in a constant state of change regarding what systems will be required to do. Ferris reported that the District has very few lead service lines and we are doing very well to understand and report our service line inventory. There are only 9 known private lead service lines. The District is tracking 13 galvanized services lines that we own and 81 privately owned. The District is performing basement inspections to clarify unknown materials and will be following up additionally with potholing efforts below the ground, once our vac service truck arrives in December of 2025. Our crew will try to perform 70-90 inspections annually for the unknown material type. The District will target galvanized replacements as these are considered the likely candidates to contain lead. Sawyer commended the efforts of the District in our progress to advance this work. Tarbuck inquired about the availability of the data to our customers. Ferris reported that all our information is contained in an online map available to anyone from the public. Sawyer mentioned that it would be nice to get this information out to realtors and other entities for public awareness. Ferris explained the tracking and color coding on various service lines on our online maps located on our website. Tarbuck mentioned the efforts that our GIS folks and interns put into this effort in addition to Maia's efforts. Corey appreciated seeing more GAUD staff at the meetings to describe the work we do and to see the quality of folks that work at the District.

At 18:43 Payne provided the financial updates. Each division has revenue that slightly exceeds expenses. Cash is strong as it builds until the autumn debt payments are made. Water revenue is tracking higher than normal due to grant funds received for the river crossing project. A brief explanation was given for why our sewer division cash flow dips below zero in the fall, due to debt payments.

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
9	Sewer	5.8	4.83	83%	5.5	3.7	68%	-0.63
9	Stormwater	4.1	3.21	78%	3.1	2.1	68%	3.16
9	Water	5.2	5.01	96%	4.4	3.1	72%	3.25

18:47 Corey asked about the power increases. Payne/Tarbuck mentioned that during mid spring of 2024 our power costs started increasing, without knowledge of why.

At 18:48 Liens were discussed. (2) water liens totaling \$243.82, (2) Sewer liens totalling \$234.28, (4) Storm liens totaling \$523.66.

At 18:49 The board voted, on a recommendation from management.

Motion: I move to waive automatic foreclosure at 106 Eastern Avenue.

M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against None
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At 18:50 Tarbuck explained the cyber security policy contained within the board packet.

At 18:51 The Board voted on the cyber security policy.

Motion: I move to approve the cybersecurity policy as presented.

M Corey	2nd Sawyer	For Unanimous	Against None
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At 18:52 Meredith Strang-Burgess provided a public relations update. Meredith mentioned the upcoming planning session on October 23, 2024. Meredith is looking for a new board photo. Meredith is also working on a fall newsletter, which will also welcome Keith Taylor and Kara Tudman Walker to the board. Meredith is planning a quick meeting on 10/22 to finalize the agenda for the planning meeting. Knight mentioned the purpose of the meeting to inform and collaborate with our partners and agencies.

At 18:56 Burton reported changes to the personnel policy manual. Changes were made to overtime pay during stormy weather, and updates were added to include the new family leave law that will affect district contributions in January 2025. 1% contributions will be split 50/50 employer/employee respectively. Also, language was added for drivers between the ages of 18-21 for insurance purposes.

Motion: I move to approve the changes to the personnel policy manual as presented.

M Corey	2nd Sawyer	For Unanimous	Against None
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At 19:30 Burton reported completion of (4) 360 reviews with personal development plans. (3) open positions currently. Two for utility workers with many good candidates to choose from, and (1) position will be for a distribution operator position budgeted in 2025. Health insurance increases are projected to be 9.5%.

At 19:04 Tarbuck presented the need for a track loader to save money on the work we do in the street and for lowering/raising frames and covers. A variety of attachments were discussed (snowblower, mulcher, forks), in addition to the manhole cutter on our 2025 CIP. Payne mentioned that a two year lease purchase takes some financial pressure off the annual CIP budget.

Motion: I move to approve a 2 year lease/purchase agreement for a Kubota track loader (skid steer with tracks) and attachments with a cost (including interest) of \$99,576.

M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against None
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At 19:09 Knight asked for a motion to enter executive session.

Motion: I move to enter into executive session to discuss the General Manager's employment contract pursuant to MRS § 405 6A

M Sawyer	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None
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At 19:33 out of executive session.

At 19:33 request for public comment, but none received.

At 19:34 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Sawyer	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

Monday, November 18, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke, Kara Tudman Walker, Bradley Sawyer

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne, Pat Gilbert

Guests: Alan Burton, Dustyn Bailey

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order.

There were no agenda additions.

At 18:02 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for October 21, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Sawyer	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:02 Corey provided an update from the rate committee. Corey noted that the rate committee did not meet.

At 18:03 Pat Gilbert discussed the grease interceptor standards which are derived from section 8.3 of the District's sewer use ordinance. Gilbert worked with the office to get an updated baseline list of about 150 locations that had grease interceptors. Gilbert worked with summer interns and Brendan Main who will take over annual grease interceptor inspections starting in 2025. Gilbert worked with the GIS group at GAUD to develop a survey that could be done in the field to make it easier for field inspectors to collect data pertinent to individual customers. This provided an easy way to collect images and GPS locations of external interceptors. Properly functioning grease traps prevent individual customers from creating grease deposition which can impact other customers.

At 18:16 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility crossing project is wrapping up the first 4 contracts. Contract 5, \$50,000, will improve pipes going into the Hospital Street drinking water pressure booster station. Begin expects CH Stevenson to begin the work in December once the work they are doing at Turtle Run is complete. Begin will meet with a fiber optic provider, GoNetSpeed, to discuss costs for connecting GAUD using fiber and an amount to be paid to GAUD for using the under-river fiber optic conduits.

Efforts to replace the 1963 wetwell / drywell sewer pump station on Front Street has begun. The wetwell has been installed and backfilled. Pipe work will follow. The valve vault will be installed in a couple of weeks. The project should be complete by May/June 2025.

The Turtle Run and Island Park needs to be paved. The last water service will be installed to the auction building soon.

The PFAS pilot study is done. The report is imminent.

The design for Hummingbird Lane includes abandoning 1,700 linear feet of 6" cast iron cross country water main in favor of installing new services to the existing water main on Riverside Drive. Ledge was quantified for the work. The work will be out to bid in December.

The Bangor Street sewer main lining project is 90% complete with nearly 3 miles of liner installed this year by Insituform. Begin noted that if the 3 miles of pipe had been excavated and replaced that it would have cost about \$7M at \$450 / foot. The work completed by relining cost about \$1M.

Brooks and St Catherine streets will be improved by the City of Augusta in 2025. GAUD work includes updating 500' of sewer, 600' of water and 1,000' of stormwater. The project will be put out to bid in February for summer construction in coordination with the City of Augusta.

Trunkline stations number 2 and 4 in Manchester remain under design consideration. The plan is to consolidate the two pump stations and reconnect an old force main that runs cross country from Manchester to Hallowell. Begin is meeting with the Augusta Golf Company to discuss how a pipeline could be installed in the winter across one of their fairways.

Wastewater plant personnel replaced the media in one of the pressure swing adsorption systems. This project went well thanks to the initiative of plant personnel. The #3 secondary clarifier upgrade should begin in December. The total

budget for this work is \$450k. The equipment (a new gearbox and drive assembly for the rake arms and new bridge supports) was purchased in advance. Northeast Earth Mechanics out of New Hampshire has been selected by a competitive bid process to install the equipment at a cost of \$158k.

At 18:30 Tarbuck provided the General Manager's report. Tarbuck noted that GAUD had been in contact with Manchester Sanitary District regarding billing options and whether or not GAUD might have a role to play at some point in helping to make that happen.

Tarbuck noted that a contractor had recently performed work for a customer that required excavation in the public way. The contractor had not responded to concerns raised by the City of Augusta about the condition of the public way which required GAUD to remedy the work as GAUD, not the contractor, is ultimately responsible for the condition of the way under the current street opening permit system. GAUD will consider options to do the work on the customer's behalf or requiring bonds to complete the work.

Tarbuck thanked Ken Knight for his 21 years of service having been reappointed by 5 different mayors. Tarbuck recognized Lee Cumber for 32 years of service. Cumber works in the meter shop and is an important part of GAUD's team.

Sawyer asked how management wanted to see suggestions from the Board related to the fats, oils and grease policy. Tarbuck advised that Trustees could redline it or just provide a list of notes or recommendations.

At 18:38 Tarbuck discussed recent PFAS results from the Riverside wells. The results of a sample collected from the combined two Riverside wells was 23.3 parts per trillion which exceeds the state's standard of 20 parts per trillion. The state of Maine issued a notice of noncompliance dated November 15. The notice requires public notification of the PFAS levels to all customers and requires the utility to take action to address the noncompliance. Tarbuck noted that this particular sample was taken in drought conditions. A different analysis method was used which may also impact the results. Tarbuck noted that the likely source of PFAS contamination of the wells is the Kennebec River. Tarbuck noted that the wells in the Bond Brook area are not affected by the Kennebec River and have lower PFAS levels which reinforces the idea that the Kennebec River is the source of contamination. Tarbuck noted that the Riverside wells were installed in 2015, before PFAS was a regulatory concern. Tarbuck noted that the Blueleaf report will guide treatment decisions and costs. Once the costs are known GAUD will consult with experts to consider options to either filter the wells to remove PFAS or abandon the wells. Knight asked about the risks of not using the Riverside wells. Tarbuck noted that before the Riverside wells were installed the Brookside wells met system demands for about 10 years. A drought could be problematic.

Tarbuck reviewed the options based on the recent sample result. One option was to continue to operate the wells and resample to see if the November sample was an anomaly. Sawyer asked if additional testing would be particularly helpful even if it showed lower levels. The second option was to turn the Riverside wells off. Tarbuck recommended that turning off the wells is the better option because GAUD is moving forward with the treatment at Riverside and already has the data necessary. Corey asked if Tarbuck was asking for permission to turn off the wells. Tarbuck said that it was his responsibility as the licensed operator and General Manager to make the decision to do this but wanted the Board to understand why the decision was being made and to fully discuss the path forward and ramifications of that decision. Tarbuck said that he had spoken with the state on the prior Friday, is meeting with the Board today and will take action tomorrow.

Sawyer asked when the sample was taken. Tarbuck replied that it was November 4th. Sawyer asked if another sample had been taken. Tarbuck said that no other sample was taken from the Riverside well since then. Sawyer asked how long it would take to filter the wells. Tarbuck said if the wells are turned off that it might take about 2 years to design, permit and construct the wells. Sawyer asked what would happen if the wells were turned off but an emergency forced their use, how quickly could the wells be spun up to provide fire protection. Tarbuck noted that an emergency response would likely only have sodium hypochlorite added. That could likely be done within about 24 hours of a call to operate. In an extreme emergency, untreated well water could be added to the system within a few hours.

Sawyer asked if there were concerns about water quality when the wells are restarted in a couple of years. Tarbuck said it could be problematic. But the high hardness helps reduce red water concerns based on a flow direction change.

Tudman Walker said that if there was a way to provide PFAS-free water it's a better option.

There was strong support from the Board to turn off the Riverside wells and accelerate the plans to install filtration.

Munson asked if the construction of the filters would be paid for fully with grants or ratepayers. Begin pointed out that GAUD already has a \$4M commitment to install filtration and has requested another \$4M. GAUD needs to match 10% of the grant.

At 19:02 Payne provided the financial updates. Each division has revenue that slightly exceeds expenses. Water revenue is tracking higher than normal due to grant funds received for the river crossing project.

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
10	Sewer	5.8	5.43	94%	5.5	4.2	77%	-0.54
10	Stormwater	4.1	3.59	87%	3.1	2.2	70%	3.44
10	Water	5.2	5.58	107%	4.4	3.4	78%	3.54

19:04 Payne reviewed the proposed 2025 budget.

	2024 Projections		2025 Proposed Budget		Change	
Division	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense
Water	\$ 6,830,222	\$ 4,285,724	\$ 6,783,758	\$ 4,742,100	-1%	11%
Sewer	\$ 6,497,467	\$ 5,077,805	\$ 7,072,666	\$ 5,409,398	9%	7%
Storm	\$ 4,245,086	\$ 2,920,748	\$ 4,067,397	\$ 3,293,167	-4%	13%
Total	\$ 17,572,775	\$ 12,284,277	\$ 17,923,821	\$ 13,444,666	2%	9%

Payne noted that the budget funds 2 unfilled utility worker positions and 1 unfilled pump station position. The budget reflects a 5% increase in wages and power; an 8% increase in chemicals and a 9% increase in health insurance costs.

The overall impact is a 9% in total projected operating expenses as shown in the table above.

Payne noted that the union contract is in negotiations now so the 5% wages for union employees is subject to change. Mike noted that a 1% increase in wages across the utility equates to about a \$55k increase in expenses divided among the three divisions.

Payne noted that budgets as presented do not include any impacts from rate increases that may ultimately be needed for financial responsibility.

The three most significant costs in the water division budget are wages at 49% of the total; depreciation at 21% and "other" at 12%. "Other" is an umbrella category that includes outside contractors, insurance, chemicals, postage etc.

The three most significant costs in the sewer division budget are wages at 36% of the total; depreciation at 27% and "other" at 20%. "Other" is an umbrella category that includes outside contractors, insurance, chemicals, postage etc. The majority of "other" expenses are based on flow and are allocated 59% sewer and 41% storm water.

At 19:15 Payne reviewed the cash flow forecasts for water, sewer and stormwater showing both 0% increases and 10% increases.

The board discussed different options for funding both operational and capital projects and the need for rate increases.

Payne discussed the cash reserve guidance from the auditors. Our auditors recommended having 60 days of cash on hand. The table below shows how that guidance compares to the current policy. Fixed cash reserve policy levels need to be adjusted whenever rates are adjusted.

2025 Cash Reserve Analysis							
Current Cash Reserve Policy \$750K/\$350K/\$350K vs 60 Days Cash On-hand							
	2025 Proposed				60 Days Cash	Current Cash	
Division	Budget	Annual Days	Cost Per Day	Days	On-hand	Reserve Policy	Variance
Water	\$4,239,500	365	\$11,615	60	\$696,904	\$750,000	\$53,096
Sewer	\$5,364,694	365	\$14,698	60	\$881,867	\$375,000	-\$506,867
Storm	\$3,006,549	365	\$8,237	60	\$494,227	\$375,000	-\$119,227
TOTAL	\$12,610,743	365	\$34,550	60	\$2,072,999	\$1,500,000	-\$572,999

Payne reviewed the debt schedules for each division. There is a significant reduction in debt service for the sewer and stormwater utilities beginning in 2031 as debt for the 2011 CSO3 A and B work will reach maturity in late 2030. The reduction will be nearly \$900k. The drinking water division will likely see an opposite trend as PFAS must be treated and there are no easy ways to reline drinking water pipe at a low cost.

Corey asked for a slightly expanded list of additional projects for the drinking water division.

At 19:32 Sawyer moved to approve the remote meeting policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Corey. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

At:19:33 Dustyn Bailey provided a public relations update. Bailey reviewed the social media analytics for the last quarter with the Board.

At 19:41 Burton provided a human resources update via Zoom. One utility worker position remains and will have an opening after the first of the year for a distribution operator. Alan has been working on communications and feedback loops.

At 19:42 Sawyer made the following motion:

Motion: I move to enter executive session to discuss negotiations relating to the collective bargaining agreement between GAUD and Teamsters Local 340 pursuant to MRS §405 6 D.			
M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against

At 19:59 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Sawyer	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

Monday, December 16, 2024

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Kirsten Hebert, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke, Keith Taylor, Kara Tudman Walker, Bradley Sawyer

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Alan Burton

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order.

Knight thanked Kirsten Hebert for her ten years of service.

There were no agenda additions.

At 18:02 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for November 18, 2024.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:02 Corey provided an update from the rate committee. Corey noted that the rate committee met on December 4th. Corey noted that the rate committee is advising increases to all three divisions.

At 18:03 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility crossing project is wrapping up. Begin is looking into using the conduits under the river to convey digital data via fiber optic lines. CH Stevenson will soon connect the Hospital Street pump station to the pipe under the river which will connect the east and west sides together for the first time through that pipe and will provide improved suction flow to the pump station.

The project to replace the 1963 Texvit sewer pump station on Front Street is coming along nicely. The wetwell, valve vault and force main have all been installed. Work continues to connect the station to the sewer interceptor. The electrical duct bank is also under construction. The project should be complete by May/June 2025.

The Turtle Run and Island Park drinking water pipe replacement project has been paved.

The PFAS pilot study is done. BlueLeaf provided their findings from the year long pilot study of the wells on Riverside Drive last week.

The design for Hummingbird Lane includes abandoning 1,700 linear feet of 6" cast iron cross country water main in favor of installing new services to the existing water main on Riverside Drive. Ledge was quantified for the work. The work will be out to bid in December.

Brooks and St Catherine streets will be improved by the City of Augusta in 2025. GAUD work includes updating 500' of sewer, 600' of water and 1,000' of stormwater. The project will be put out to bid in February for summer construction in coordination with the City of Augusta.

Trunkline stations number 2 and 4 in Manchester remain under design consideration. The plan is to consolidate the two pump stations and reconnect an old force main that runs cross country from Manchester to Hallowell. Planning continues to consider easements required to convey wastewater from station 2 to station 4 and then all the way to Augusta over Granite Hill.

The #3 secondary clarifier upgrade at the wastewater treatment plant should begin in December. The total budget for this work is \$450k. The equipment (a new gearbox and drive assembly for the rake arms and new bridge supports) was purchased in advance. Northeast Earth Mechanics out of New Hampshire has been selected by a competitive bid process to install the equipment at a cost of \$158k.

At 18:07 Tarbuck thanked Hebert for being a great resource and a good friend. Tarbuck thanked Brad Sawyer for his years of service as well. Tarbuck noted that Winthrop Utilities District is installing a new SCADA system that is the same system used at GAUD.

At 18:14 Tarbuck and Knight noted that they attended an Augusta City Council meeting regarding PFAS in the east side wells last week. Knight said that it was good that the District got out ahead of the majority of the concern with proactive communications. Tarbuck reviewed some highlights from the BlueLeaf PFAS study. Tarbuck noted that Riverside Station is out of service. Tarbuck noted that Hallowell's PFAS levels were also in the low 20's which suggests that the source of PFAS contamination is the Kennebec River.

At 18:29 Payne provided the financial updates. Each division has revenue that slightly exceeds expenses. Water revenue is tracking higher than normal due to grant funds received for the river crossing project.

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
11	Sewer	5.8	6.06	104%	5.5	4.5	82%	-0.26
11	Stormwater	4.1	3.98	96%	3.1	2.5	82%	3.74
11	Water	5.2	6.27	120%	4.4	3.9	89%	4.02

18:31 Payne reviewed the proposed 2025 budget. There were no changes to the 2025 proposed O&M budget. Payne noted that the budget does not include any projected revenues from a rate increase.

	2024 Projections		2025 Proposed Budget		Change	
Division	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense
Water	\$ 6,830,222	\$ 4,285,724	\$ 6,783,758	\$ 4,742,100	-1%	11%
Sewer	\$ 6,497,467	\$ 5,077,805	\$ 7,072,666	\$ 5,409,398	9%	7%
Storm	\$ 4,245,086	\$ 2,920,748	\$ 4,067,397	\$ 3,293,167	-4%	13%
Total	\$ 17,572,775	\$ 12,284,277	\$ 17,923,821	\$ 13,444,666	2%	9%

Payne reviewed the three year cash forecast for each of the three divisions. There were three options evaluated for rate increases of 0%, 1.5% and 3.2%. 3.2% is a forecast for inflation in 2025. The notion is that adjusting rates to equal inflation helps to ensure that the ability to pay for operating and capital expenditures does not backslide over time.

The long range goal is to try to keep rate increases to a low rate and adjust rates annually.

Motion: I move to approve the operations and maintenance budgets as presented to this meeting for drinking water, sewer and stormwater for 2025.

M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against
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Motion: I move to approve the capital improvements budgets as presented to this meeting for drinking water, sewer and stormwater for 2025.

M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against
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Motion: I move that we certify and approve the schedule of rates for water service, sewer and stormwater service and fire protection service, which has been presented to this meeting and recorded with the minutes, for the 2025 calendar year, and continuing until such time as the schedule of rates is modified by vote of the Trustees, and I further move that the Assistant Treasurer, in addition to the Treasurer, be authorized and directed to apply the schedule of rates, along with all fees and charges otherwise authorized by the District or by State statute, to all persons, entities and property receiving services from the District, and to thereafter collect the sums due from said persons and entities and to take all appropriate action related to the collection of said sums, including the preparation and filing of notices and liens and allowed by the District's Charter and State law.

M Corey	2nd Hebert	For Unanimous	Against
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At 18:57 Meredith Strang-Burgess gave the Board an update regarding recent public awareness activities, particularly relating to PFAS. MSB pointed out that all of the news coverage regarding the PFAS issue was added to the GAUD website. MSB noted that there is a lot of information relating to PFAS on the website to include regulatory correspondence and links to the actual test results themselves. Customers are encouraged to review the information online to help them make informed decisions. The winter newsletter will soon go to press.

At 19:02 Burton provided a human resources update. Burton noted that there are two open positions. A utility worker and a distribution operator. Both positions are included in the 2025 budget.

At 19:06 Corey thanked Kirsten for her valuable input to the rate committee over the years and that she will be missed.

At 19:07 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Sawyer	2nd Hebert	For Unanimous	Against None