

Monday, January 27, 2025

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room at 22 Arsenal Street

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

Trustees absent: Kara Tudman Walker

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 December 16, 2024.

M Corey	2nd Taylor	For Unanimous	Against None
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At 18:02 Corey provided an update from the rate committee. Corey noted that the rate committee met on January 23rd. Corey noted that the rate committee is advising increases of 3.2% to all three divisions. The average cost increase to customers for the 3.2% increase will be about \$2.58 per month. 3.2% is recommended based on current inflation. Knight asked if the amount was sufficient to meet the utility's needs now or is it artificially low? Tarbuck noted that current forecasts suggested the 3.2% was appropriate for 2025. Knight asked if this rate would be sufficient to pay for PFAS treatment.

Motion: I move to increase drinking water and fire protection rates in an amount not to exceed 3.2% with a desired effective date of June 1, 2025.

M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None
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Motion: I move to increase wastewater rates in an amount not to exceed 3.2% with a desired effective date of June 1, 2025.

M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against None
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Motion: I move to increase stormwater rates in an amount not to exceed 3.2% with a desired effective date of June 1, 2025.

M Corey	2nd Taylor	For Unanimous	Against None
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At 18:09 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. As a result of the Kennebec River Utility crossing project the Hospital Street pump station at Piggery Road can now be supplied with water from the new under-river water main which provides significant hydraulic redundancy to this portion of the distribution system. We are working with fiber optic communications providers to determine whether or not there is interest to use the existing conduits beneath the river.

The project to replace the 1963 Texvit sewer pump station on Front Street is coming along nicely. The project should be complete by May/June 2025.

The PFAS pilot study is done. We are looking at different options for water treatment at Riverside Drive to remove PFAS. Grant funding may allow for treatment at Riverside and potentially a new source in the North Augusta area. North Augusta is an area that is likely to grow and is far enough away from the Kennebec River that PFAS won't be a contaminant of concern in that area.

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. Bids are due on January 30.

Brooks and St Catherine streets will be improved by the City of Augusta in 2025. GAUD work includes updating 350' of sewer, 600' of water and 700' 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. RFPs for survey of the project are due on February 13.

GAUD received a grant which will be used to partially fund the acquisition of a vacuum truck that will help us determine the types of service lines in the drinking water system to comply with the EPA's Lead Service Line Inventory program. To date we have identified 9 lead service lines, 89 galvanized service lines and 229 lines that require further investigation. The truck continues to be delayed. Delivery of the truck may be in March.

The #3 secondary clarifier upgrade at the wastewater treatment plant should begin in the first quarter of 2025. 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 18:33 Tarbuck recognized board members and employees for their years of service. Munson and Paradis have 8 years, Melanie Anair has 6 and both Dwane Bernier and Jonah Waterman have 1 year each.

Tarbuck congratulated Andy Begin as the new president of the Maine Water Utilities Association for the next year.

Tarbuck congratulated Brandon Main for passing the class 2 distribution operator exam.

The Board discussed utility extensions to the Riggs Brook area and the costs to do so. A large customer would need to pay for the main extensions. The cost to extend both water and sewer would be about seven million dollars.

Tarbuck noted that we just completed the Department of Labor SHAPE inspection. This year the inspection was particularly detailed. Steps are being taken to address the findings.

At 18:46 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. Payne noted that December is when he normalizes the cash between sewer and stormwater based on year end expenses.

Budget Summary 2024		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
12	Sewer	5.8	6.62	114%	5.5	4.9	89%	1.01
12	Stormwater	4.1	4.31	104%	3.1	2.7	88%	1.68
12	Water	5.2	6.74	129%	4.4	4.3	97%	4.32

At 18:50 the board discussed a potential foreclosure at 106 Eastern Avenue in Augusta.

Motion: I move to waive automatic foreclosure at 106 Eastern Avenue in Augusta.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:51 the Board discussed approval of the grease interceptor standards that had been reviewed at the November 18, 2024 meeting.

Motion: I move to approve the Grease Trap and Grease Interceptor Standards as presented to this meeting.

M Corey	2nd Paradis	For	Against
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At 18:53 Meredith Strang-Burgess gave the Board an update regarding recent public awareness activities. The winter newsletter went out at the first of the year. The annual report will be posted soon. The late audit means that the report will be posted without audited financial statements. These publications are stored on the GAUD website under 'about us' and 'publications'.

At 19:01 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 19:02 the meeting entered executive session.

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	Against
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At

19:13 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.

M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against None
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Monday, February 24, 2025

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room at 22 Arsenal Street

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

Trustees absent: Kara Tudman Walker

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Meredith Strang-Burgess

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 January 27, 2025.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:02 Corey provided an update from the rate committee. Tarbuck noted that March 17 is the rate hearing which will precede the regular GAUD board meeting. The vote to approve changes to the rates will be on April 28.

At 18:09 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility Crossing project has been completed. Some accounting work remains for retainage and billing final contracts.

The project to replace the 1963 Texvit sewer pump station on Front Street is coming along nicely. Buried utilities have been installed. Work continues on the control building roof, wiring and interior piping. The project should be complete by May/June 2025.

The PFAS pilot study is done. We are looking at different options for water treatment at Riverside Drive to remove PFAS. Grant funding may allow for treatment at Riverside and potentially a new source in the North Augusta area. North Augusta is an area that is likely to grow and is far enough away from the Kennebec River that PFAS won't be a contaminant of concern in that area.

The Hummingbird Lane drinking water pipe replacement project 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. Three bids were opened on January 30. CH Stevenson was the low bidder at \$239k followed by Ranger at \$254k and finally Eastwood at \$374k. The approved budget for the project was \$437,580. The project will include work by plumbers to reroute interior plumbing as water will come from the street side of the property, not the back yard. This work should be done in the second quarter.

Brooks and St Catherine streets will be improved by the City of Augusta in 2025. GAUD work includes updating 350' of sewer, 600' of water and 700' of stormwater. The project will be put out to bid soon 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. RFPs for survey of the project were received on February 13. Haley Ward was the lone respondent to survey 3.5 miles of off road property for future easement discussions.

GAUD received a grant which will be used to partially fund the acquisition of a small vacuum truck that will help us determine the types of service lines in the drinking water system to comply with the EPA's Lead Service Line Inventory program. To date we have identified 9 lead service lines, 89 galvanized service lines and 229 lines that require further investigation. The truck continues to be delayed. Delivery of the truck may be in March.

A replacement for leak prone drinking water pipes on Pleasant Hill is in design now. This project is similar to Hummingbird as the pipe was installed behind homes, not in the road itself. This makes repairs difficult so the plan is to move the main into the road where it should have been installed in the first place. There is a lot of ledge to remove to do this work. The budget for the work is \$443k.

Work proposed on Davenport Street will result in stormwater improvements that should help us meet long term combined sewer overflow reduction goals by separating the sewer from 3 to 5 combined sewer catch basins. Drainage is poor in this area so 1,000' of new stormwater pipe is proposed to improve drainage. This work builds off work we did last year to improve drainage along Fairview Avenue. This project has a \$480k budget and also includes a lot of work in ledge. The work should be completed in the third quarter of this year.

The work proposed for Chapel Street (budgeted at \$1.1M) will be deferred at least a year due to emerging information about an extremely frail water main on Cony Road. 1,300' of 90 year old 6" cast iron will be replaced by 12" of new ductile iron. The budget for this project is \$580k.

The #3 secondary clarifier upgrade at the wastewater treatment plant should begin in the first quarter of 2025. 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.

Begin provided an update on the number of water main breaks that have been repaired during the winter of 24/25. To date there have been 10 breaks, 2 on Cony Road and one on Spring Road (near Togus).

At 18:19 Tarbuck congratulated Brad Sawyer for his reappointment to the GAUD board. Sawyer gave praise to Lee Cumber for helping him with a sewer backup into his house.

At 18:20 Knight noted that the District was recently awarded the Paul Keogh award by the New England Water Environment Association. Tarbuck went to the NEWEA conference in Boston to accept the award. NEWEA describes the award as follows. "This award was established in 1994 in memory of Paul Keough, in recognition of his leadership and efforts to communicate to the public the need to protect the water environment. Mr. Keough was a reporter for the Quincy (MA) Patriot Ledger prior to joining the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency where he started as a Public Affairs Officer and worked his way up to Regional Administrator."

At 18:21 Tarbuck thanked Bob Higgins for his service to the ratepayers. Bob worked in the meter shop with Lee Cumber for about 7 years and finally decided to retire.

At 18:23 Tarbuck congratulated Begin for his recent election as President of the Maine Water Utilities Association.

At 18:24 Sawyer passed on the praise he received from some of the city council members about the professionalism of people at GAUD.

At 18:25 the Board discussed PFAS. Tarbuck said there was nothing new to report as treatment options are under consideration now. Keith Taylor said that Hallowell Water District recently had a positive public meeting about PFAS in that community.

At 18:27 Payne provided the financial updates.

Budget Summary 2025		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
1	Sewer	7.1	0.51	7%	5.4	0.4	8%	1.50
1	Stormwater	4.1	0.37	9%	3.3	0.2	7%	2.17
1	Water	6.8	0.50	7%	4.7	0.4	9%	4.39

The Board discussed procurement practices to better understand how commodities are purchased. Payne explained that fuel and power are purchased through brokered agreements that are shared among other utilities.

At 18:34 the Board discussed extending two existing loans for a year. There is no cost to the ratepayers to do this.

- Allonge/Amendment - Front Street Pump Station Bond \$1,241,750
- Allonge/Amendment - Lead Service Line/Inventory Bond \$1,000,000

Motion: I move to approve both the Front Street Pump Station bond and Lead Service Line / Inventory bond as recommended by Counsel.

M Sawyer	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against
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At 18:36 the Board discussed the \$4.0M loan agreement with the Bond Bank for PFAS treatment. GAUD has to match 10% of the loan amount. The \$4.0M loan will be ‘forgiven’ meaning. Thus the ratepayers have a \$400k commitment for a \$4.0M ‘grant’ for all intents and purposes.

Motion: I move to execute the \$4,000,000 loan agreement with \$4,000,000 in principal forgiveness between GAUD and the MMBB for the Riverside Drive PFAS project as presented to the Board.

M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against
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At 18:39 Tarbuck asked the Board to consider allowing him to put out an RFP to consultants for guidance for future decisions regarding the District’s buildings and long term needs.

At 18:43 Meredith Strang-Burgess gave the Board an update regarding recent public awareness activities. Work is continuing to make the public aware of the proposed 3.2% rate increase documents to ratepayers. There will be a block on the homepage to direct visitors to the website for information relating to the proposed increases. Quarterly social media metrics were reviewed. Tarbuck noted that the website needed to be improved to look at past meetings. Meredith agreed that it would be remedied soon.

At 18:51 Payne provided an HR update in Alan Burton’s absence. Payne noted that an offer will be made to one of the existing utility workers to fill Bob Higgins’ vacancy.

At 18:52 the Board moved to enter into executive session.

Motion: I move to enter executive session to discuss property acquisition pursuant to MRS §405 6 C.

M Sawyer	2nd Taylor	For Unanimous	Against
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At 19:23 the Board exited executive session.

At 19:24 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.

M Sawyer	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None
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Monday, March 17, 2025

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room at 22 Arsenal Street

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

Trustees absent: none

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Meredith Strang-Burgess , Alan Burton

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order and introduced board members, employees and consultants.

At 18:01 began the public hearing relating to rate increases of 3.2% for the drinking water division, sewer division and stormwater division.

Knight described the rate increase impacts summarized by the table below.

Results	Current monthly	Proposed monthly	Δ
Water	\$ 36.20	\$ 37.36	\$ 1.16
Sewer	\$ 52.53	\$ 54.21	\$ 1.68
Storm	\$ 12.56	\$ 12.96	\$ 0.40
Sum	\$ 101.29	\$ 104.53	\$ 3.24

The reasons for the higher rates include replacing aging equipment, paying for increasingly expensive services and hiring and retaining personnel.

Knight reviewed the rate setting timeline, process and rights available to persons aggrieved by the proposed modifications to rates.

Knight noted that the Board is discussing rates, not setting rates. The Board will set rates formally at its April 28, 2025 meeting pending receipt of petitions or other concerns.

If approved, the rates will go into effect on or about June 1, 2025.

At 18:10 Knight opened the public hearing. One individual from the public attended the meeting. No members of the public were on the remote call to discuss rates. There were no comments from the public either in-person, written or online. The Board reviewed the rate setting process and efforts to reach out to the public for comment.

At 18:17 the rate hearing was closed and the regular Board meeting resumed.

At 18:17 the Board voted on the prior month's meeting minutes.

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for January 27, 2025.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against None

At 18:18 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility Crossing project has been completed. Some accounting work remains for retainage and billing final contracts.

The project to replace the 1963 Texvit sewer pump station on Front Street is coming along nicely. Buried utilities have been installed. Work continues on the control building roof, wiring and interior piping. The project should be complete by May/June 2025.

The PFAS pilot study is done. The PFAS preliminary design work is complete. The recommendation is to install six 4' diameter x 8' tall cylindrical filters to remove PFAS using an ion exchange resin. The existing generator will be removed and the filters will be installed in its place which reduces the need to construct new building space. Grant funding may

allow for treatment at Riverside and potentially a new source in the North Augusta area. North Augusta is an area that is likely to grow and is far enough away from the Kennebec River that PFAS won't be a contaminant of concern in that area.

Work on Summer Street will be underway by Aceto Construction in early April. This project removes sewer pipes from beneath the garage for Plummers Funeral Home. This work will be completed by June.

The Hummingbird Lane drinking water pipe replacement project 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. Three bids were opened on January 30. CH Stevenson was the low bidder at \$239k. The project will include work by plumbers to reroute interior plumbing as water will come from the street side of the property, not the back yard. This work should be done in the second quarter.

Brooks and St Catherine streets will be improved by the City of Augusta in 2025. GAUD work includes updating 350' of sewer, 600' of water and 700' of stormwater. The project will be put out to bid soon 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. RFPs for survey of the project were received on February 13. Haley Ward was the lone respondent to survey 3.5 miles of off road property for future easement discussions.

GAUD received a grant (55% grant / 45% GAUD match) which will be used to partially fund the acquisition of a small vacuum truck that will help us determine the types of service lines in the drinking water system to comply with the EPA's Lead Service Line Inventory program. To date we have identified 9 lead service lines, 89 galvanized service lines and 229 lines that require further investigation. The truck continues to be delayed. Delivery of the truck may be in March.

At the wastewater treatment plant, work will start on March 24th to replace the unsafe catwalk and drive unit located in the #3 secondary clarifier. The total cost for the equipment and the the installation is about \$320k.

The proposed Pleasant Hill drinking water pipe replacement project will be deferred until 2030 to comply with the City of Augusta's pavement moratorium project.

In lieu of the Pleasant Hill work, resources will be diverted to replace a 1911 water main located in Davenport Street. This will be in conjunction with stormwater and combined sewer separation work on Davenport Street which affords some cost sharing savings among the divisions.

Work proposed on Davenport Street will result in stormwater improvements that should help us meet long term combined sewer overflow reduction goals by separating the sewer from 3 to 5 combined sewer catch basins. Drainage is poor in this area so 1,000' of new stormwater pipe is proposed to improve drainage. This work builds off work we did last year to improve drainage along Fairview Avenue. This project has a \$480k budget and also includes a lot of work in ledge. The work should be completed in the third quarter of this year.

Cony Road has had a high number of leaks so we are planning to replace the existing 1,300' of 6" cast iron 1930's era drinking water pipe with 12" ductile iron pipe this summer. The changes will reduce the number of leaks and improve our fire flow capacity in this area. The approximate cost of this work is \$580k.

There are two 400,000 gallon welded steel drinking water storage tanks on Eastern Avenue installed in 1988 that each need to be repainted on both the inside and outside. The cost will be \$674k to repaint both tanks.

There was a fire last year on Amherst Street (near the existing KMart which will soon be demolished) that revealed poor fire flow in this area. The work proposed will replace 640' of 6" cast iron water main which is over 100 years old. 2 catch basins that discharge to the sewer will also be removed to increase available sewer capacity and reduce the risk of a combined sewer overflow. The budget includes about \$360k for drinking water and \$120k for stormwater.

At 18:40 Tarbuck noted that the space where meetings are now held is referred to as 22 Arsenal Street in the parlance of e911.

Tarbuck recognized Tucker Cummings for his first full year of service; Isreal Colpitt with 7 years, Randi Taylor with 27 years and Peter Kwiatkowski with 35 years.

Tarbuck noted that there are ongoing cyber and physical threats to utility infrastructure. GAUD has updated its infrastructure accordingly to minimize the risk of damage and maximize resiliency to an incident.

At 18:47 Payne provided the financial updates.

Budget Summary 2025		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
2	Sewer	7.1	1.06	15%	5.4	0.8	15%	1.42
2	Stormwater	4.1	0.70	17%	3.3	0.5	14%	2.27
2	Water	6.8	1.03	15%	4.7	0.8	16%	4.24

At 18:50 the Board discussed a policy regarding street opening permits. Tarbuck introduced a draft policy to consider how to better manage street opening permits.

At 18:55 Meredith Strang-Burgess gave the Board an update regarding recent public awareness activities. Burgess Advertising and Marketing has been busy with billing inserts, a late spring / summer insert, the 2023 annual report, improving the website and updating the rate setting page on the website.

At 18:59 Alan Burton noted that a utility worker will soon be hired which leaves two open positions.

At 20:01 the Board adjourned.

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

Monday, April 28, 2025

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room at 22 Arsenal Street

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

Trustees absent: none

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Meredith Strang-Burgess , Alan Burton

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order and introduced board members, employees and consultants.

Knight welcomed Tim Dennett to the board as the Augusta voting trustee who replaced Kirsten Hebert's vacant board seat.

At 18:02 Tim Gill from RKO presented the audited financial statements from 2023. Gill stated that the financial statement opinion was unmodified and showed no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Gill noted that inventory control for certain items remains challenging for GAUD and he recommended adding certain language to the procurement policy to better reflect federal requirements. Begin noted and Gill agreed that the federal requirements were included in contract documents that leveraged federal funds but Gill noted that adding it to the procurement policy was a recommended practice. In short, the financial statements from 2023 were strong and well represented. Corey noted that the length of time required for the Board to receive the audited statements was much longer than desired. Gill agreed and asserted that their firm, like many others, was struggling to find qualified auditors and hoped for a faster turnaround of the 2024 financial statements.

At 18:23 Bob Corey moved to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Munson. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 18:24 Corey discussed the work done to reach a decision on adjusting rates by 3.2% for water, sewer and stormwater starting on or about June 1, 2025. Corey made the following motion:

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, 2025, 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.

The motion was seconded by Sawyer. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

At 18:25 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility Crossing project has been completed. Some accounting work remains for retainage and billing final contracts.

The project to replace the 1963 Texvit sewer pump station on Front Street is coming along nicely. Buried utilities have been installed. Electrical work is ongoing. The project should be complete by June 2025.

The PFAS pilot study is done. The PFAS preliminary design work is complete. The recommendation is to install six 4' diameter x 8' tall cylindrical filters to remove PFAS using an ion exchange resin to treat a design flow of 600 gallons per minute (0.86 MGD). The existing generator will be removed and the filters will be installed in its place which reduces the need to construct new building space. The next step for this work is to submit the proposed design to the permitting agencies so permission can be granted to commence work. The expected cost is about \$2M which will be funded in large part by grants.

Grant funding may also be used for a new source in the North Augusta area. North Augusta is an area that is likely to grow and is far enough away from the Kennebec River that PFAS won't be a contaminant of concern in that area.

The Hummingbird Lane drinking water pipe replacement project 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. Three bids were opened on January 30. CH Stevenson was the low bidder at \$239k. The project will include work by plumbers to reroute interior plumbing as water will come from the street side of the property, not the back yard. This work should be done in the second quarter.

Work on Summer Street is underway by Aceto Construction. This project removes sewer pipes from beneath the garage for Plumm's Funeral Home. This work will be completed by June.

Brooks and St Catherine streets will be improved by the City of Augusta in 2025. GAUD work includes updating 350' of sewer, 600' of water and 700' of stormwater. The low bid was \$410k from CH Stevenson. This work will begin in 2025 and likely will carry over into 2026.

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. Survey is ongoing but Tarbuck emphasized that no construction is happening along the "Pipeline Trail" in Hallowell.

GAUD received a grant (55% grant / 45% GAUD match) which will be used to partially fund the acquisition of a small vacuum truck that will help us determine the types of service lines in the drinking water system to comply with the EPA's Lead Service Line Inventory program. To date we have identified 9 lead service lines, 89 galvanized service lines and 229 lines that require further investigation. The truck has been received and the crew is learning how to properly operate it.

Begin and Tarbuck noted that there is an ongoing conversation between utilities, the Maine Public Utilities Commission and the Drinking Water Program relating to how to replace service lines and comply with the main extension policy and the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule.

At the wastewater treatment plant, the work to replace the unsafe catwalk and drive unit located in the #3 secondary clarifier has been completed but the newly installed drive isn't working per manufacturer's specifications. That is getting sorted out now. The total cost for the equipment and the installation is about \$320k.

A 1,000 foot long 6" 1911 cast iron water main located in Davenport Street will be replaced this year. This will be in conjunction with the addition of 1,000' of new stormwater pipe to separate an existing combined sewer system in that area and help improve drainage in the area.

Cony Road has had a high number of leaks so we are planning to replace the existing 1,300' of 6" cast iron 1930's era drinking water pipe with 12" ductile iron pipe this summer. The changes will reduce the number of leaks and improve our fire flow capacity in this area. The approximate cost of this work is \$580k.

There are two 400,000 gallon welded steel drinking water storage tanks on Eastern Avenue installed in 1988 that each need to be repainted on both the inside and outside. The cost will be \$674k to repaint both tanks.

There was a fire last year on Amherst Street (near the existing KMart which will soon be demolished) that revealed poor fire flow in this area. The work proposed will replace 640' of 6" cast iron water main which is over 100 years old. 2 catch basins that discharge to the sewer will also be removed to increase available sewer capacity and reduce the risk of a combined sewer overflow. Begin noted that GAUD is working with the developer of the former KMart site to identify any potential ways to collaborate for mutual benefit and / or cost savings. GAUD is considering converting the current dead end pipe on Amherst to the pipe beneath Florence Street to improve fire flow and increase resiliency. The budget includes about \$360k for drinking water and \$120k for stormwater.

Two replacement trucks are out to bid. There were no bids received for ¾ trucks so the bids were recast as 1 ton trucks to see if that generates more interest. The total budget for a utility body truck and a flatbed truck kitted out to work on valves is \$171,000. The new trucks will replace two ¾ ton 2009 trucks.

At 18:54 Tarbuck recognized Andrew Ludwig for 6 years of service and Brandon Main for completing his first full year at GAUD. Wastewater plant personnel considered reopening the camper dump station at the wastewater treatment plant over the winter and recently determined that they would be able to reopen the dump station for 2025.

The Consumer Confidence Report has been completed and posted online.

Sawyer asked if any landfill leachate was discharged to the wastewater collection system. Tarbuck noted that there are two inputs, the City of Augusta's Hatch Hill landfill and the former Statler / American Tissue landfill. Sawyer noted that LD 1604 would require utilities that accept landfill leachate would be required to treat wastewater to remove PFAS. Tarbuck noted that if it came to that, GAUD would not accept landfill leachate that contained PFAS as it would be far more costly to treat wastewater at the plant than it would be to treat leachate at the landfill.

At 19:05 the Board reviewed the street opening policy that had been presented in March. Corey moved to approve the policy presented to the Board. Dennett seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

At 19:08 Payne provided the financial updates.

Budget Summary 2025		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
3	Sewer	7.1	1.64	23%	5.4	1.2	22%	1.60
3	Stormwater	4.1	1.01	25%	3.3	0.7	21%	2.37
3	Water	6.8	1.59	23%	4.7	1.1	24%	4.39

At 19:11 Knight asked Tarbuck to ensure that Dennett got some time to review District operations for onboarding purposes.

At 18:55 Tarbuck gave the Board an update regarding recent public awareness activities. Burgess Advertising and Marketing reviewed the GAUD website for ADA compliance. It appears to be mostly compliant with a few minor changes. BAM provided the digital report for the first quarter of the year, is working on an updated 2025 budget, the June insert and the summer / fall newsletter.

At 19:14 the board entered executive session:

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 Munson	For Unanimous	Against

At 19:34 the Board exited executive session.

At 19:34 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Sawyer	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against

Monday, May 19, 2025

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room at 22 Arsenal Street

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke, Keith Taylor, Bradley Sawyer, Tim Dennett

Trustees absent: Kara Tudman Walker

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Randi Taylor

Guests: Meredith Strang-Burgess , Alan Burton

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order and introduced board members, employees and consultants.

At 18:01 Bob Corey made the following motion:

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for April 28, 2025.			
M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against

At 18:02 Corey discussed the upcoming rate adjustments. A residential customer with a $\frac{5}{8}$ " meter and 5 HCF of monthly consumption in Augusta who pays for water, sewer and stormwater service will see a monthly increase of about \$3.24. The new rates will apply for water used after June 18, 2025. Customers will see the impact of the new rates in early August.

At 18:04 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. The Kennebec River Utility Crossing project has been completed. Some accounting work remains for retainage and billing final contracts.

The project to replace the 1963 Texvit sewer pump station on Front Street is coming along nicely. The generator has been received. Electrical work is ongoing. The project should be complete by August, 2025.

The PFAS preliminary design work is complete. The recommendation is to install six 4' diameter x 8' tall cylindrical filters to remove PFAS using an ion exchange resin to treat a design flow of 600 gallons per minute (0.86 MGD). The existing generator will be removed and the filters will be installed in its place which reduces the need to construct new building space. The next step for this work is to submit the proposed design to the permitting agencies so permission can be granted to commence work. The expected cost is about \$2M which will be funded in large part by grants.

Grant funding may also be used for a new source in the North Augusta area. North Augusta is an area that is likely to grow and is far enough away from the Kennebec River that PFAS won't be a contaminant of concern in that area. Exploration will commence on property owned by the City of Augusta which is located near existing three phase power and water infrastructure.

The Hummingbird Lane drinking water pipe replacement project 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. The mains have been installed. The project will be completed by July.

Work on Summer Street is underway by Aceto Construction. This project removes sewer pipes from beneath the garage for Plummers Funeral Home. This work will be completed by July.

Brooks and St Catherine streets will be improved by the City of Augusta in 2025. GAUD work includes updating 350' of sewer, 600' of water and 700' of stormwater. The low bid was \$410k from CH Stevenson. This work will begin in August, 2025 and likely will carry over into 2026.

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. Survey is ongoing but Tarbuck emphasized that no construction is happening along the "Pipeline Trail" in Hallowell.

GAUD received a grant (55% grant / 45% GAUD match) which will be used to partially fund the acquisition of a small vacuum truck that will help us determine the types of service lines in the drinking water system to comply with the EPA's Lead Service Line Inventory program. To date we have identified 9 lead service lines, 89 galvanized service lines and 229 lines that require further investigation.

At the wastewater treatment plant, the work to replace the unsafe catwalk and drive unit located in the #3 secondary clarifier has been completed but the newly installed drive isn't working per manufacturer's specifications. That is getting sorted out now. The total cost for the equipment and the installation is about \$320k.

A 1,000 foot long 6" 1911 cast iron water main located in Davenport Street will be replaced this year. This will be in conjunction with the addition of 1,000' of new stormwater pipe to separate an existing combined sewer system in that area and help improve drainage in the area.

Cony Road has had a high number of leaks so we are planning to replace the existing 1,300' of 6" cast iron 1930's era drinking water pipe with 12" ductile iron pipe this summer. The changes will reduce the number of leaks and improve our fire flow capacity in this area. The approximate cost of this work is \$580k. Work will start in July.

There are two 400,000 gallon welded steel drinking water storage tanks on Eastern Avenue installed in 1988 that each need to be repainted on both the inside and outside. The cost will be \$674k to repaint both tanks. This work should be done by the end of July.

There was a fire last year on Amherst Street (near the existing KMart which will soon be demolished) that revealed poor fire flow in this area. The work proposed will replace 640' of 6" cast iron water main which is over 100 years old. 2 catch basins that discharge to the sewer will also be removed to increase available sewer capacity and reduce the risk of a combined sewer overflow. Begin noted that GAUD is working with the developer of the former KMart site to identify any potential ways to collaborate for mutual benefit and / or cost savings. GAUD is considering converting the current dead end pipe on Amherst to the pipe beneath Florence Street to improve fire flow and increase resiliency. The budget includes about \$360k for drinking water and \$120k for stormwater.

At 18:12 Tarbuck recognized years of service milestones for Mike Morey, 36; Bob Corey, 9; Bruce Plourd, 8; Julie Weston, 8; Wes Pittman, 6; and Codey Bell, 4. 12 Williams Street is getting some long needed improvements including doors with digital access controls, an electric gate, updated electrical panels, repaved parking lot, new exterior lights on 22 Arsenal and internal drinking water improvements.

At 18:19 Tarbuck discussed PFAS. Tarbuck thanked Andy for going through a number of different design iterations. The design is done for the most part. There are hold ups on the environmental permitting and financing requirements which delay our ability to order equipment.

At 18:29 Tarbuck explained that the wastewater treatment plant was again accepting camper wastewater. Plant personnel are considering the pros and cons of accepting septic waste at the wastewater treatment plant. This could provide a small amount of revenue and improve solids removal performance.

At 18:31 Tarbuck reviewed changes to the drinking water Terms and Conditions for approval by the Board and the Public Utilities Commission. The changes include adjustments to fees to reflect current financial conditions. Randi Taylor explained some of the details of the proposed changes.

Motion: I move to approve the proposed 2025 Terms and Conditions as presented to this meeting to be submitted to the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against
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At 18:51 Meredith Strang-Burgess provided a communications update.

At 19:03 Alan Burton provided the human resources update. All open positions have been filled. A distribution operator position remains budgeted but is not posted. Alan is working with Mike Payne to determine how to backup accounts payable and human resources. Alan is working on the General Manager's review. Job descriptions are being reviewed and edited.

At 19:05 the board entered executive session:

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 Dennett

For Unanimous

Against

At 19:15 the Board exited executive session.

At 19:15 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.

M Sawyer

2nd Dennett

For Unanimous

Against

Monday, June 16, 2025

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room at 22 Arsenal Street

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke, Keith Taylor, Tim Dennett, Kara Tudman Walker.

Trustees absent: Bradley Sawyer

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Randi Taylor

Guests: Meredith Strang-Burgess , Alan Burton, John Cummons , Joe Piccone (Teamsters 340)

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order and introduced board members, employees and consultants.

At 18:01 Joe Piccone from Portland Teamsters 340 introduced himself to the Board and asked to be added to executive session at a future board meeting to have a conversation regarding the negotiations of the collective bargaining agreement between Teamsters 340 and GAUD.

At 18:02 Knight noted that the Central Maine Regional Water Council recently met. The Council is modeled after similar councils in other parts of Maine which allows for utilities to work together if and when the need arises. There is an annual corporate filing fee which is paid for by Winthrop Utilities District and GAUD. The fee for each utility is about \$150.

At 18:03 Bob Corey made the following motion:

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for May 19, 2025.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against

At 18:03 Corey discussed the recent rate committee meeting. Corey noted that the utility is working to manage the projects funded by the capital improvement plans.

At 18:04 Begin provided capital improvement project updates. He noted that within a span of seven days three water main leaks needed to be repaired. Two of the three leaks were on Eastern Avenue and the third was on State / Oak Street. The recent breaks on Eastern Avenue have moved that particular section of pipe to the top of the 2026 capital improvement plan. Valves in particular on that section of main have failed at a higher rate than normal making repairs much more costly. The leak on State / Oak Street was due to a failure of an abandoned lead service pipe. The service was removed.

Begin explained the ongoing work to install fiber optic lines beneath the river in a way that will benefit digital service providers and GAUD.

The project to replace the 1963 Texvit sewer pump station on Front Street is coming along nicely. The generator has been received. Electrical work is ongoing. The project should be complete by August, 2025.

The PFAS preliminary design work is complete. The recommendation is to install six 4' diameter x 8' tall cylindrical filters to remove PFAS using an ion exchange resin to treat a design flow of 600 gallons per minute (0.86 MGD). The existing generator will be removed and the filters will be installed in its place which reduces the need to construct new building space. Begin explained the proposed changes to the building. The expected cost is about \$2M which will be funded in large part by grants.

Grant funding may also be used for a new source in the North Augusta area. North Augusta is an area that is likely to grow and is far enough away from the Kennebec River that PFAS won't be a contaminant of concern in that area. Exploration will commence on property owned by the City of Augusta which is located near existing three phase power and water infrastructure.

Work continues to identify the types of drinking water services that are currently unknown. GAUD personnel are inspecting pipes in basements and will follow up with external "pothole" inspections using a vacuum excavation truck as needed.

At the wastewater treatment plant, the work to replace the unsafe catwalk and drive unit located in the #3 secondary clarifier has been completed but the newly installed drive isn't working per manufacturer's specifications. The manufacturer replaced the faulty drive. The replacement drive is working properly. The total cost for the equipment and the installation is about \$320k.

The design to improve approximately 1,000' of water main and storm drain on Davenport Street will be completed soon. Work will likely happen in 2026 for Davenport and Amherst Street.

Cony Road has had a high number of leaks so we are planning to replace the existing 1,300' of 6" cast iron 1930's era drinking water pipe with 12" ductile iron pipe this summer. The changes will reduce the number of leaks and improve our fire flow capacity in this area. The approximate cost of this work is \$580k. Work will start in July.

There are two 400,000 gallon welded steel drinking water storage tanks on Eastern Avenue installed in 1988 that each need to be repainted on both the inside and outside. The cost will be \$674k to repaint both tanks. This work should be done by the end of July.

Amherst Street is 95% designed.

Two utility trucks were put out to bid but it appears that no further orders will be taken for 2025. We are pursuing other options. Bidding out trucks is generally less costly than buying them off the lot as we get significant municipal discounts.

Begin noted that routine inspection discovered a failing sewer pipe on Bond Street / Mount Vernon Avenue. It was relined in place. He also noted that a short stormwater pipe and a pair of catch basins on Prescott Road was repaired. GAUD participated in the repair work only to hand it off to the City of Augusta as ownership was unknown and the basins were removed to make it an open ditch and culvert system.

At 18:25 Tarbuck recognized years of service milestones for Mike Saharic (Mike is now seasonal / part-time) 25, Rick Anair 20, David Williams 15, Mike Charest 15, Andy Begin 15, Dana Demos 13 and Mike Payne 4.

Tarbuck noted the preference for going to the fourth Monday as each month for the typical GAUD board meeting.

Motion: I move to have GAUD board meetings on the fourth Monday of each month.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against

At 18:34 Tarbuck noted that getting the Riverside well back online is the utility's priority.

At 18:34 Payne presented a financial summary from May, 2025. noted that getting the Riverside well back online is the utility's priority.

Budget Summary 2025		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
5	Sewer	7.1	2.91	41%	5.4	2.0	37%	1.59
5	Stormwater	4.1	1.76	43%	3.3	1.1	35%	2.82
5	Water	6.8	2.79	41%	4.7	2.0	41%	4.56

At 18:36 Payne noted that we have a RFP out for financial auditing services. RFPs are due on July 7, 2025 at 2:00 PM EST.

At 18:39 the Board reviewed a lien at 106 Eastern Avenue. The City of Augusta has foreclosed on the property. We have 10 liens and waived automatic foreclosure on 6 of them. Management recommended that the Board waive automatic foreclosure at this property.

Motion: I move to waive automatic foreclosure at 106 Eastern Avenue.			
M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against

Corey noted that as of June, there are only 16 outstanding liens. Corey thanked GAUD office personnel for their work to keep liens low.

At 18:41 John Cummons explained why accepting septic tank waste is an acceptable process at the wastewater treatment plant. Cummons noted that this will increase the loading on the primary clarifies and should improve sludge press performance. A fee for septage is proposed at 10 cents per gallon. The plant is permitted to accept up to 20,000 gallons per day.

Motion: I move to set the rate for accepting septage waste at the wastewater treatment plant at \$0.10 per gallon.

M Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against
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18:50 Payne explained that the auditors noted that we should have a policy relating to federal procurement guidelines.

Motion: I move to approve the changes to the procurement and purchasing policy as presented to this meeting.

M Dennett	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against
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18:51 Meredith Strang-Burgess provided a communications update. MSB is working on the summer newsletter related to infrastructure replacement. She is also working on making sure the revised rates are properly represented on the website. Crisis communications are next up on the agenda.

At 18:56 Alan Burton provided the human resources update. A distribution operator position remains budgeted but is not posted. We are looking to hire a person to provide backup for the accounts payable and human resources positions. Job descriptions are being reviewed and edited. Positions were checked to ensure they were in the proper wage bands. Two new position titles were added; project engineer and senior project engineer. Alan has scheduled two 360 reviews for the fall including Tarbuck's annual review.

At 19:02 the board entered executive session:

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 Corey	2nd Munson	For Unanimous	Against
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At 19:19 the Board exited executive session.

At 19:19 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.

M Paradis	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against
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