

639 Lisbon Road

Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252

Tel. (207) 353-3020

Arthur McLean, Chairman, Marie Hale & Allen Ward Commissioners

Charles Harrison, General Manager

Water Commission Minutes for July 11, 2023

Members Present: Arthur McLean, Marie Hale, Allen Ward

Staff Present: Charles Harrison, Cindy Schafer

Audience: Don Fellows, Mr. George Giese

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

# Meeting called to order by Mr. McLean at 5:00pm

# Roll Call

1. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

# Mr. Giese spoke to the board asking them to reconsider his abatement request; it was previously denied at the board meeting on June 13, 2023.

* + 1. Mr. Giese feels he met the criteria
    2. Ms. Hale asked if he lives in the house
       1. He replied that he does not, he lives in Yarmouth and that the house is an income property.
    3. Mr. Ward asked about the specifics of the running toilet
       1. Mr. Giese stated that the tenant did not report it to him right away; the week they reported it is when he called the Water Department
    4. Mr. Giese left once he had addressed the board; Mr. Harrison let him know that we would call him on July 12th with the vote result.
    5. Ms. Hale made a motion to deny the abatement, Mr. McLean 2nd the motion, followed by a 2/1 vote to deny.
    6. During this conversation it was suggested that we look at our abatement policy and either make further restrictions or do away with abatements altogether.

1. WARRANTS

# Warrant #25023 (Jun 21, 2023)

# Warrant #26023 (Jun 28, 2023)

# Warrant #27023 (Jul 05, 2023)

# Warrant #28023 (Jul 12, 2023)

1. OLD BUSINESS
   1. Minutes
      1. 06/13/2023-Meeting Minutes
         1. Ms. Hale made a motion to accept minutes of June 13, 2023, Mr. Ward 2nd motion, followed by a 3/0 vote to accept.

# Unresolved Issues (tabled)

* + 1. 26 Summer Street
    2. Memorial for Bill Bauer
       1. Mr. Ward will take care of issue getting rock.

# Any Other Old Business

# 125 Project Update

* + - * 1. Mr. Harrison stated that everything is still going very well.
        2. McGee is wrapping up the end sections so they will start getting temp water moved to next section.
    1. Corrosion Control
       - 1. PLC guy was here today so we will start pumping chlorine on 7/12/23 at Ann St.
         2. Next we will get Bauer done hopefully so we can start chlorine there.
         3. Mr. Harrison will post to Facebook and the Town website.
         4. Once chlorine is pumping at each site, we will start pumping Poly Ortho; this can knock minerals loose.

We may get phone calls; customers can clean screens and flush their own lines. If we get more than one customer in an area, the guys will flush the hydrant closest to where we get calls from.

It is the intention to start the Poly during warm weather in case we need to flush, we will not be flushing during freezing temps.

* + 1. Moody Pump Base Issue
       - 1. This has been resolved; Finish Water pump #2
         2. Pumping about same amount of water at 2/3 the electrical cost
    2. Lead and Copper sampling (update)
       - 1. We need 20 sample site, we got 16 but still needed 4; we just got 2 more and will work on finding 2 additional. One site tested a little high.
    3. The CDs have been opened with TD Bank; we just need to get a signature from the board for the signature cards so we can return them.
    4. Maine Water has announced their summer outing will be on August 10; Mr. Harrison is looking for which commissioners will be attending.
       1. Ms. Hale is a yes, Mr. Ward is a no (work) and Mr. McLean will be going with his staff.

1. NEW BUSINESS

# General Manager’s Report

1. Moody VFD (Variable Speed Drive Replacements)
   1. Mr. Harrison got quotes from Fitch (our PLC Company); we can get them for about $3000 less by getting them from the manufacturer vs. getting them from PLC Company.
   2. The money was in the budget for replacements this year.
2. Purchase of a Soft Start
   1. If we had had a Soft Start on the shelf when the drive went, we would have been able to get water running.
   2. Brings voltage up slowly; not paying for inrush of voltage
   3. Ms. Hale made a motion to approve the purchase of a Soft Start for up to $2500, Mr. Ward 2nd the motion, followed by a 3/0 vote to approve.
3. Fire Alarm Control Panel Issues
   1. We had lots of call-ins for fire alarms going off randomly; the humidity was too high in that room.
   2. Fire alarms are starting to go off, paint on pipes are starting to peel, and green sand filters are sweating.
4. Dehumidifier (Moody)
   1. Mr. Harrison stated that the solution to the high humidity is placing 3 small industrial dehumidifiers at Moody.
   2. Based on the size of the area, Mr. Harrison is asking the board to approve 3 small units (each handles about 1000sf) at a cost of $1860 before shipping. Shipping is estimated at about $300.
   3. Ms. Hale made a motion to approve purchasing 3 units for no more than $2300, Mr. McLean 2nd the motion, followed by a 3/0 vote to approve the purchase.
5. Service line drawing/Pre-Inspection New Homeowner Program
   1. Mr. Harrison has put together a diagram showing service line requirements and what the homeowner is responsible for.
   2. He also explained that we have started reaching out to new home owners and doing a pre-inspection. This lets them know what they need to have included (meter, backflow device and shut off valve) in their service. It also allows us to get into the home to do a service inspection for our records. We can replace meters and/or install MXUs at this time if it is necessary.
      1. Customers have been receptive so far.
   3. Mr. Harrison added that the other part of this is that if they are making changes that will make our system better, he would like to know what the board thinks about not charging the $78 turn on fee.
      1. Mr. McLean asked if we have a lot of houses that we don’t have inspection information on and how many do not have B/F devices.
         1. Ms. Schafer stated that we have quite a few.
      2. Mr. Ward made a motion that anyone with a new connection and new inspection fee if they find a deficiency and need to get a plumber, we are willing to rebate the turn on fee, Ms. Hale 2nd the motion, followed by a 3/0 vote in favor.

# Business Manager’s Report

* + 1. None

# Commissioner Communication/Requests

* + 1. Ms. Hale –
       1. Several older women in town have seen our new temp employee and they are pleased we hired a young woman to be part of the group.
    2. Mr. Ward –
       1. None
    3. Mr. McLean – On his way to meeting he noticed that a hydrant on Main Street only has the top sticking out.
       1. Mr. Harrison noted we have extensions ordered they are just not available.

# Customer Communication

* + 1. Complaint Log
       1. June 11, 2023 – 23 Pike St – No water

1. Flushing
   * + 1. June 20, 2023 – 32 Free St – Calcium buildup in screen
          1. Was told to soak in white vinegar. Customer is putting in a whole house filter.
       2. June 19, 2023 – 1 Jac Lane – Low pressure
          1. Mr. Harrison noted he needed more information. Ms. Schafer stated she was sure it was a filter but said she would look to see what had been done.
          2. Update: Water operator found that low pressure was due to the house filter being clogged.
       3. June 12, 2023 – 19 Capital Ave. – Low pressure
          1. Service has good pressure, Don informed customer it may be the fixtures.

# Customer Comments

* + - 1. None

# Any Other New Business

* + - 1. None

1. SET NEXT MEETING DATE

# Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 5:00pm at Lisbon Water Department.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   * 1. None
2. ADJOURNMENT
   1. Ms. Hale made a motion to adjourn, Mr. McLean 2nd the motion, followed by a 3/0 vote in favor. Adjourned at 5:52pm.