

# Tri-Town Water District No. 1

## Commission Meeting

### MAY 22, 2025

Chairman Darwin Pratt called meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Commissioners present were: Steve Kayhart, Adam Thomann, Drexel Wheeler, Ernest Audet, Lance Wood, Ed James and Scott Douglas.

Also present was: Jennifer Sullivan, Dwayne Roberts and Tricia Gordon from Tri-Town Water.

No amendments to the April 2025 meeting minutes.

No Tap-Ons present. However regarding a recent tap on for Lucinda Belanger-not in attendance-on Keyes Road in Bridport was explained by Dwayne where there happens to be a shared agreement that the bordering property can tap onto one service for two separate lots/services. The customer wanted to know where the water lines are but it's a private line and Dwayne does not know the exact whereabouts of that portion of the water line. The customer would like to put a pit in and it be shared between the two. Some concerns of the boards if the property sold and it was a shared pit, how would that work? Also what kind of deed is it; warranty deed or quick claim deed? No decision made at this time as customer wasn't here to discuss further.

Linda and Robert Waterman at 5131 VT RTE 125 W in Bridport was in attendance to discuss a leak after their curb stop. It was explained that the plow truck took out their mailbox and it caused a leak which did get fixed, although had reported to Tri-Town Water that it was still leaking after the fact and realized they had low pressure etc. Dwayne explained that the brass nipple broke where plastic and nipple joined that screwed into curb stop. It was after the curb stop, that's why the Waterman's had been charged for the leak repair. The customer does not feel they should have to pay the excavating bill as it was not repaired properly the first time by Tri-Town Water. The board will discuss further later in the meeting and make a decisions on the matter and let the customer know the outcome.

Robert Barrows was in attendance to introduce himself to the board as our new employee. He is super happy and glad to be part of our Tri-Town Water group.

Audit for FY 23/24 was reported on by Gordon Telling from Telling & Hillman P.C. that it was a clean opinion. He gives reasonable assurance. They completed the audit following their procedures and gave a detailed descriptions of the financial statements were discussed as well as depreciation and assets, with a net position of \$121,000. All in all it was a good report with no complaints about management.

Tricia Gordon reported on the delinquent accounts list; it's in the works and has a shut off date of 6/11/2025. We will be hanging door notices next week.

Robert Clark from Otter Creek Engineering attended to discuss a few different items. First being an update on the O&M manual and the Sanitary Survey, waiting on the state to accept them. Second the Lead Service Line Inventory; the state accepted our letter and we have 113 unknown services which we did notify via the

lead and copper letter required to be sent out by the state. The letter has to be sent out every year until we can identify those unknown services. Robert suggest that we send him all tap on's so he can scan them to the database that they care for and keep updated for Tri-Town Water going forward. Third; regarding East Street pressure issues, Robert suggests a booster station be put in at the bottom of the land that is owned by Tri-Town Water that our current reservoir tank is located on in Addison. We would have to close a couple lines, closing a couple valves and making it a one way off of the Addison tank which would produce better water and a better pressure zone for all those surrounding customers with pressure issues. He recommends pouring a cement slab building a shed/wood frame structure that would need to include a generator. Fourth; 4<sup>th</sup> filter update at the plant, Robert recommends some review of the plant to check the filters to see if we can get more water of existing filters, he doesn't feel they are running as they should be therefore he feels WesTech should inspect them and they do that free of service. The total project cost of the 4<sup>th</sup> filter would be \$1.1 million; this project would need to be completed during the winter months due to less water usage/flow. Robert suggests we start with the new filter project at the plant first and the East Street project second.

Ernest Audet makes a motion to complete the 4<sup>th</sup> filter project at the water plant first and then the East Street pump station project second; seconded by Drexel Wheeler. The motion passed.

Regarding the haloaectic acid test; the organic matter reacting with the chlorine in the water, therefore it was mentioned the importance of getting the filters running more efficiently and correctly in order to prevent that situation from happening again in the future.

Regarding the drive by meter fee notice; Tricia explained that we were waiting on some further information regarding municipal rules and clarification as to the Vermont statutes. Waiting on some legality answers from Vermont League of Cities and Towns and possibly seeking an opinion from our attorney.

Superintendent's report: The raw water pump #1 kept failing and had some troubles, would run manually, Dwayne found the component needed to be replaced. Then pump #2 failed, finding the seals needed to be replaced. The turbidity meter quit and a cartridge needed to be replaced, which has been ordered. Some flushing has been done due to the haloaectic acid test results. We did receive some customer complaints of no water due to this. Dwayne will be meeting with the environmental scientist next week to try some things at the water plant and to make sure nothing different needs to be done. There will be at least two more times of flushing as we have to test again next month.

Waterman's bill is for \$750 after further discussion regarding a possible faulty brass nipple which should have lasted for at least ten years or more it was decided upon to pay the customers invoice for the repair of the leak. Ernest Audet makes a motion to pay the \$750 invoice from Provencher Earthwork that was sent to the Waterman's; Drexel Wheeler seconded. The motion passed.

Darwin mentions the Rules & Regulations committee and a date to meet needs to be set. It will be discussed between the committee members to set a 6 pm evening meeting sometime next week.

Personnel: no business

There being no further business, Chairman Pratt adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Kindest Regards, *Tricia Gordon*-Tricia Gordon-Clerk/Office Manager