

Tri-Town Water District No. 1

Commission Meeting

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

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

Commissioners present were: Darwin Pratt, Steve Kayhart, Ernie Audet, Larry Simino, Ed James, Scott Douglas, Drexel Wheeler and Lance Wood.

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

Amendments to the October 16, 2025 meeting minutes: None

Tap-Ons:

- Bob Clark from Otter Creek Engineering provided an update on the requested tap-ons from Brandon Streicher in Shoreham. Bob reported that the two inch line there will not be a problem for the 4 lots. Bob does not believe there will any impact to the Brisson farm or Barnum Hill. Ernie noted that Tri-Town wants all individual connections (four). Brandon has application. Ernie made a motion to approval four tap-ons. Larry seconded; all approved.
- 22A Road Bore: Ernie provided an update on his personal work and road bore under 22A. Blue Spruce paying for the bore under 22A to attach to East Street and the workers will need to come back in the spring. Discussion around Tri-Town doing work at the same time Ernie has the bore work done to put a six inch line under 22A. Blue Spruce would pay for the boring and Tri-Town would pay for the six inch pipe.

Tricia Gordon reported on the delinquent accounts list; Final notices will be hung the week of November 24th.

PFAS Lawsuit Discussion: Drexel discussed the most recent letters and information received involving the 3M class action lawsuit noting that Tri-Town needs to either opt-in or opt-out. Opting in would require providing samples to see if PFAS exists in Tri-Town's water. Question was asked whether if we opt-in and receive money, how said money would need to be spent – not know at this time. Discussion around testing ensued noting that the lawsuit is testing at parts per-trillion. Bob and Aaron both noted that this is very small and Bob noted it is highly doubtful to find any in the lake. Tri-Town is already required to test for PFAS every five years but not at parts per trillion. Bob noted that PFAS are “nasty stuff” and it would be about \$600-\$700 to test and that we would want to know if PFAS existed in Tri-Town's water. If Tri-Town opts in and we find nothing, we are done. If Tri-Town ops in and we find PFAS, we will be required to re-test. Ernie made a motion for Tri-Town to opt-in to the lawsuit and complete the first testing. Scott seconded; all in favor. Drexel will reach out to the Burlington based lawyer involved with the suit and introduce Aaron/Dwyane for testing.

Budget Review: Jenn Sullivan presented an updated budget for FY26 along with supporting schedules detailing out predicted cash flow and revenue for FY26. Budget discussion over line items ensued and line items were noted that may need adjustment ahead of final budget presentation and the vote for approval on December 2, 2025. It was noted that when the notice for annual meeting goes out, the commissioner

compensation should be noted and that vote will occur at annual meeting. Cash balances were discussed focusing on the depletion of checking account and money market due to meter project. The Bar Harbor Bank CD is up for renewal on December 4, 2025 and the Board is okay with moving \$65,000 from this CD to the money market and leave the remaining amount in the CD and renew for six months.

Superintendent's report: Aaron noted that in October exploratory digs were completed over 1.1 miles and expanded 20 services from Baker to Whitford. Also noted during exposed line at Blue Spruce traffic lights were used and dealt with a leak on Hemingway Rd and completed tap-on at Orchard Drive. GMP is setting all new poles from Champlain Orchard to Ferry and talked them into putting them on other side of road to avoid Tri-Town water lines. Seasonal shutoff are almost complete and noted homeowners have stayed later this year so completion is later than usual. Hydrants have been winterized. Discussed the leak and service saddle repair near Pratt's noting it was an emergency situation that brought up the fact that we need better documentation around procedures about what to do in an emergency situation – including traffic control procedures. Aaron noted it was dangerous relying on 4-way flashers and Tri-Town needs to look for better lights on trucks. Drexel talked to Dusty for lights on town trucks to see where they get them and how much they are. Aaron met with representative from Hach Manufacturing who completed an audit of the equipment to provide quotes on replacements and turbidity meters nothing they can send techs for an annual fee to assess and repair equipment. Aaron additionally noted AOT upset with Tri-Town for not paving repair areas. Need better written protocols on this topic as it was noted that in emergencies Dwyane typically requests permit the next day and Aaron was unaware of this. Paving will be done and Dwyane has been contacted. Noted that perhaps tap-ons should be limited or unavailable after Nov 1 to help prevent paving needs.

- Discussion followed noting that Aaron and crew should come up with a list of what is needed for proper equipment and quotes. Tri-Town should look into portable stop lights as they are better than flaggers. For traffic control – can Tri-Town get a retainer with the flagging company? Sheriff is expensive at \$100/hour limited to 4 hour blocks and \$1/mile. Potential to look into grants to cover the portable stop-lights as quote was about \$25k.

Other Business:

- Filter project – Bob Clark noted the parts for the filter have been ordered with an arrival time of 12 – 16 weeks. The next step is getting a contractor on board. Bob has done the work at his hourly bill rate and will have the bid ready to go for next week. Bob will ensure and verify contractor information to ensure they are qualified contractor, including allowable under governmental requirements. Will need to open bids after January 1, 2026 in the office and have a special meeting to vote on the results of the bid. Will need a quorum to vote. Contract dates will set a final completion date for the project. Contractors include some in the state of Vermont and some outside the state. Discussed opening the bids in the office Tuesday January 6th with a special meeting to vote Thursday January 8th with the regular board meeting January 15th to ensure enough time to begin project. Project will take approximately 35 – 40 days to complete. Aaron noted they have discussed the potential need to work overnight shifts to keep water flowing while project is underway. Ernie noted that no check has been written yet towards the materials and Tri-Town would feel better if a check was written to ensure project is moving forward.
- Bob noted that the State of Vermont has realized approximately \$2.1 million for a 0-3% fixed interest loan with durations dependent on type of projects. First submission is due December 1. Bob has prior application and information on the booster station and can use that as a starting point. Discussion followed on pump station, East Street and linking Cross Rd. Bob can get started on permit application and if we decide to not move forward with the loan and project, we would be out about \$10,000 for the

work Bob will and has put into this project. Ernie made a motion to have Bob move forward with permit and application work. Lance seconded; all approved.

- Discussed with Bob the copy of digital records that Otter Creek has and made digital for Tri-Town. Tri-Town should and can do better job inventorying leaks and service locations and build a digital database. Bob offered to have Tri-Town keep paper records and pictures and then provide to Bob once a year and can update the database that way. Steve mentioned the end goal would be to access all digital records through a computer. Discussion around Tri-Town's need for a policy to ensure compliance and to keep it simple. From now on, workers should update the system for any service lines, shut off valves, pipes, etc.
- Tricia noted that the office may need a new printer sometime soon. The printer is beginning to leave marks on the paper. Noted that a new printer is about \$1,000 and ink is expensive. Toner lasts about one month and costs about \$400 a month. Drexel brought up potential leasing a printer/scanner like the Town of Bridport. Tricia will get a quote to bring to December meeting.
- Darwin provided an update on the John Deere zero-turn mower. Work was completed in the amount of \$1,570; however, right after work was done the engine blew. Would cost about \$2,800 for new engine. New mower can be about \$4,000. Decided to pay the \$1,570 bill and pick up the mower and look for a used one.

Personnel: No matters.

There being no further business, Chairman Darwin Pratt adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Kindest Regards, *Jennifer Sullivan*-Jennifer Sullivan-Treasurer