

Tri-Town Water District No. 1

Commission Meeting

AUGUST 17, 2023

Chairman Darwin Pratt called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Commissioners present were: Steve Kayhart, Larry Blacklock, Ed James, Lance Wood, Ernie Audet and Drexel Wheeler.

Also present were: Mark Pumiglia, Dwayne Roberts and Tricia Gordon from Tri-Town Water.

A motion was made by Larry Blacklock, and seconded by Ed James to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion passed.

No Tap-On applications were presented.

Tricia Gordon updated the board on the short delinquent account list. A new list will be generated next week.

A Tri-Town Water customer on VT RTE 74E in Shoreham, Dwight Menard, wanted to discuss a potential leak on his property that he would like investigated and fixed. Customer believes it is a Tri-Town Water leak, although per Dwayne Roberts he says it is all after the pit therefore customer's responsibility. Dwayne will investigate further.

A customer dispute was brought to the board's attention on Orchard Drive in Bridport, Brennan Kensey, is disputing his 7/31/2023 quarter water bill which was estimated based on history due to a failed meter and unable to obtain reading. The board decided that as we do not have an accurate usage, to adjust the bill for this quarter and a new meter has been installed. Lance made a motion that we bill the customer for a base rate of \$92.00 this time, seconded by Ed James. The motion passed.

Robert Clark from Otter Creek Engineering was present to update the board on the Bernie Sanders grant; Tri-Town Water has made it through the first hurdle of the appropriations process. This is a great step forward. Although funding is not guaranteed, Robert suggests creating a plan/schedule for the 4th filter project. He mentioned we probably won't receive the State Revolving Drinking Water funding and to think on ways we are going to want to tackle future projects and funding to be used.

Robert also updated the board on the Brisson tap on request last month; the customer has decided not to pursue a tap on at this time.

The Tri-Town Water office building is in need of some maintenance. Keith Betourney is scheduled to look at the roof. Discussed whether to repair slate roof or replace with metal roof. Will decide once Keith looks at roof to see what he thinks.

Darwin suggested we hire Pete Beniot to fix up around the outside of office building; replace rotten boards, old steps, pressure wash building, paint decks/doors etc...board okay'd. No motion needed.

Personnel discussion regarding Mitchell Gallison giving his two weeks' notice; his last day will be August 24th. Spoke about obtaining a retainer as we will only have one certified water operator once Mithcell leaves. Dwayne is seeking information from the state first, on retainer options and licensed operator rules. Drexel mentioned that if a new employee passes the 4C License test then that employee could potentially get a provisional license. The state regulations require 2 licensed operators to be in compliance.

Steve Kayhart made a motion to go into executive session, Drexel Wheeler seconded at 7:45 pm. Ernie made a motion to leave executive session, seconded by Steve Kayhart at 8:10 pm. Discussion involved personnel and future hiring possibilities.

The hiring committee interviewed two applicants for the addition of a 4th man to our team, although now will be the 3rd man due to Mitchell's departure. Drexel asked about the two applicant's field trip to the water plant meeting with Dwayne. The first, Kevin Paquette enjoyed learning about the plant and Dwayne believes he has a good hard work ethic. The second, Simon Wurst also enjoyed the water plant tour and would do well at the job. Darwin proposed a motion to hire Kevin Paquette offering him \$24/hr which is the rate they started the last employee. Lance Wood made a motion to hire Kevin Paquette, seconded by Larry Blacklock. The motion passed.

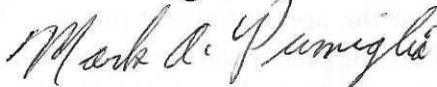
Dwayne Roberts presented the superintendents report; the compressor needs to be serviced, the air dryer is bad, received quote from DLThurcott to replace for \$1675.00. The board okay'd, no motion was needed.

The Barnes Bros. pressure issues have been resolved. Dwayne did some adjusting with larger pressure reducer and learned the issue was in the customer's water pipes and has resolved itself and pressure has been restored. Dwayne updated on the meter repair list, Aaron has been diligently working on them! Dean Degray from Bridport has been hired for the lawn mowing and is working out nicely.

There being no further business, Chairman Pratt adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Mark A. Pumiglia-Clerk/Treasurer



Tricia Gordon-Office Manager

