

Monday, January 25, 2010, 4:00 PM
Greater Augusta Utility District Board minutes
Jackson Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant, Augusta, Maine

Trustees present: Ken Knight, David Smith, Steve Roberge, Don Roberts, Dick Bachelder, Tom Sotir, Charlene Hamiwka, Jim Simpson and John Charest

Trustees absent: Tom Sotir

Guests: Harold Wood

Ken Knight called the meeting to order at 16:00.

Knight asked for agenda additions. There were two for discussion. The first was related to the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed and the second was related to non-voting trustees being allowed to vote if there was an absent member on the Board.

No financial documents were presented at the meeting.

On a motion by David Smith, seconded by Don Roberts, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 13, 2010.

The Board discussed the upcoming meeting on February 10, 2010, with the Augusta City Council at length. There was discussion about different rate options. The conclusion was that a single, one-time rate increase for sewer and stormwater would be timed to coincide with a reduction in the rates charged for drinking water services. The timing of the rate adjustments is planned for January, 2012.

the Board asked if an updated project estimate could be created for the meeting to show the money that has been spent to date, projects that are currently under contract and an estimate of costs for remaining projects that haven't been bid yet.

There was discussion relative to how sewer and stormwater costs would be allocated. Tarbuck said that the engineering team was taking the lead role on this task and should have a presentation ready for the Board's regular meeting on Monday, February 22, 2010.

At 17:05 the Board discussed funding Cobbossee Watershed District and the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed. Smith asked Tarbuck to determine the cost of renewing a membership with Cobbossee Watershed District that had been cancelled about 10 years ago to provide revenue for paying property taxes on land owned by the District in Winthrop and Readfield.

At 17:10 there was discussion about how to modify the Charter to allow the non-voting member from Augusta to vote if one of the voting members of Augusta was absent and allow the same courtesy to the non-voting member from Hallowell. The idea is that this will help preserve a quorum in case one or more Board members are absent from the meeting.

The easement committee reported that easement acquisitions for the CSO3 project seem to be on schedule. There is a potential for 3 landowners to resist the easement acquisition, to be determined at a later date.

At 17:28 there was some discussion relative to the Public Relations committee and its next meeting time. Not meeting date was set.

At 17:33, Dave Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Roberge and the vote to approve was unanimous.