

SOUTHWEST HARBOR WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

November, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Town Hall

4:00 PM.

Lee Worcester, Ralph Dunbar, Ken Minier, Greg Tillman, Karen Reddersen
Steven Kenney, Manager

Meeting called to Order: 4:00 PM

Meeting minutes;

Motion to approve November 2024 minutes by Dunbar, 2nd by Minier 4 in favor, 1 abstention

Financials;

Reports;

Board read over and acknowledged the monthly financial statements. Motion by Tillman, 2nd by Minier to acknowledge the reports, Unanimous.

Rate Increase Study Update;

Manager reported that the 1.5% increase in water rates would need to be pushed forward till the 2nd quarter of 2025 due to the inability to get notices out 30 prior to the increase due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The district only had 1 ½ days to print out and mail the notices. Notices will be mailed out as part of the 4th quarter billing to save postage. Though the increase will give the District another \$10,000 in annual revenue the addition of the “solar fee” on our electric bills has increased that budget by \$27,000 annually. As the District has not seen one rebate credit from the State’s solar program the increase in revenue was outweighed by the increase in electrical costs. Board requested the Manager to bring this matter to the State’s attention and request a refund and waiver so we do not have to pay the solar fee until we can benefit from the program.

Warrants 105 & 105A, November Payroll;

Motion by Dunbar to approve the Warrant 104 & 104A, 2nd by Tillman. Unanimous.

Motion to approve November Water & Sewer payroll by Dunbar, 2nd by Minier, Unanimous

Updates;

WWTP project;

Manager reported that the electrical service fees from Versant will be added to the project costs and the District will be reimbursed for its expenses. The added sludge hauling cannot be reimbursed as it is considered “operational” expenses. The Manager did talk with the WWTP contractor, Apex Construction, to share the cost of heating the WWTP as the costs are doubled the usual due to construction, to which Apex agreed.

Additional Staffing;

Manager discussed the need for an assistant in the office to help the Office Manager during billing, keep the office open all week and be available when the Office Manager is out sick or on vacation. The Office Manager has health issues she is trying to deal with as well as unable to take vacation time due to the workload.

The Board asked the manager to try and see if the District could fund this new position within budget parameters.

Workers Comp;

Manager reported Workers Comp is still stonewalling his ability to get an MRI since July and he is still finding it difficult to perform basic tasks without being in pain.

Next Meeting, January 16, 2025

Meeting Adjourned 4:35 PM, motion by Worcester, 2nd by Minier, Unanimous.