

The monthly meeting of the Caribou Utilities District was held Wednesday, February 8, 2023 in the City Council Chambers located at 25 High Street, Caribou Maine.

Trustees Present;
Gary Aiken, President
David Martin, Treasurer
Philip McDonough, Asst. Treasurer
Jay Kamm, Trustee
David Belyea, Trustee

Others Present;
Hugh Kirkpatrick, Gen. Manager
Sue Sands, District Clerk
Gail and Bruce Hagelstein, Citizens
Tim Todd, Citizen
Janine Murchison, Citizen
Dave Corriveau, Citizen
Dan Bagley, City Councilor
Penny Thompson, City Manager

President Gary Aiken opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Aiken welcomed those in attendance as well as thanking City Manager Penny Thompson for setting the council chambers up for the Utilities meeting. All of Penny's time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Sue Sands discussed the budget and financial reports for January, 2023. Some of the line items were reviewed especially Account # 501.00, Treatment Plant salaries for the wastewater. Sue explained an employee cashed in PTO hours which was included with regular salaries. The insurance line items were also discussed. Sue explained the worker's womp is paid quarterly and the property casualty coverage with MMA is paid in January and July. Jay Kamm moved and Phil McDonough seconded the motion to accept the budget reports. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. The financial report showed revenue to 01/25/23 due to closing the books early in order to attend the MWUA conference in Augusta. Philip McDonough moved and Dave Belyea seconded the motion to accept the report as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

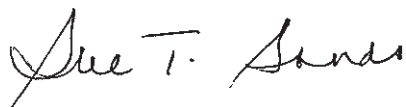
Philip McDonough moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to table voting on the 2023 Budget for water and wastewater and instead meet for a budget workshop February 16, 2023 in the conference room on Limestone Street to review line items as a group. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. The commitment for water charges according to provisions of Section 6414-A of Title 35-A of the Maine Revised Statutes annotated for 2023 in the amount of \$1,176,500.00 was signed by the Trustees.

The manager's report from Hugh Kirkpatrick is attached.

After discussing the Manager's report, Dave Belyea moved and Jay Kamm seconded the motion to move forward with the Booster Pump Station Project Upgrade. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Although the bids were much higher than projected, the DWP (Drinking Water Program) is fully funding cost increases through an additional \$523,000. grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Trustee Jay Kamm moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Sue T. Sands, Office Manager, District Clerk



Manager' Report

A. Water Projects:

Booster Pump Station Upgrade Project (2022-14) – Although the bids for this project, which were received last Wednesday, February 1st, came in higher than the engineered estimate, the Drinking Water Program (DWP) has offered the District additional grant funding above and beyond the original \$140,000 of principal forgiveness. They are offering an additional \$523,000 grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). See handouts for details. At the current interest rate offered by the DWP for these projects, we would finance the balance of \$327,000 for 20yrs at 2.1%. The yearly debt service payment would be \$20,200 for that balance. Of the \$440,000 budgeted for debt service, approximately \$60,000 is available for new projects.

Note: Previous approved amount was \$467,000 with \$140,000 of principal forgiveness (with a difference of \$327,000 to be financed). The DWP is fully funding cost increases through the ARPA grant.

Recommendation: Approve the offer from the DWP and start the project.

Water Tank Painting Project (2023-07) – Scored a 92 against all other projects submitted last fall (see handouts). Twenty-seven (27) projects made the primary list for funding with the lowest score of 99. This project could be funded if seven (7) or more projects drop off of the primary project list. We would likely find out if this project moved to primary list after the March 1st deadline to notify the DWP of the acceptance of funding for projects on the primary list. Otherwise, we will resubmit this project in the fall of 2023 for 2024 funding.

New River Crossing Project (2023-08) - Scored a 76 against all other projects submitted last fall. This project is not likely to move up to the primary list. We will resubmit this project in the fall of 2023 for 2024 funding.

B. 35 York Street – No update

C. River Road Lot – Met with the land owner the last two Mondays. He will sign the option to purchase this Friday, February 10th.

D. Fiber Project:

On January 27th we participated in a debriefing conference call with the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA). Myself, Jay Kamm and Tim McAfee of Pioneer Broadband were on the call. The MCA explained the projects which were funded weren't just shovel ready, they were sparsely populated communities which do not have access to the 'three ring binder' (The Fiber One network that was installed in the early 2000's which traverses through Caribou). The next round of connect the ready grants will likely have identical criteria.

There is funding available through the ARPA funds given to the Aroostook County Commissioners to administer. Of the \$13m they are responsible to administer between 2022 and 2026, up to \$450,000 is available in 2023 for broadband initiatives for us to apply for. I am working on an application which would only include what we are calling application 1 of 18. Application 1 of 18 includes the communications hub on Sincock Street and all locations on Sincock Street, South Main Street (b/w Sincock & Rte 1), Rte 1 (to the Caribou – PI town line), Dow Siding Rd, Buck Rd (east), Doyle Road (east) and Maysville Siding Rd; 270 potential customers of which as many as 75 are unserved. Application is a rolling basis so the deadline is when the 2023 is fully granted.