

The monthly meeting of the Caribou Utilities District was held Wednesday, March 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. Treas
Jay Kamm, Trustee
David Belyea, Trustee

Others Present;
Hugh Kirkpatrick, Gen. Manager
Sue Sands, District Clerk
Tim Todd, Citizen
Janine Murchison, Citizen
Penny Thompson, City Manager

President Gary Aiken opened the meeting at 6:18 P.M. Philip McDonough moved and David Martin seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 8th monthly meeting. Philip McDonough moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2023 Budget workshop. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

The February 2023 budget and financial reports were discussed. There were questions regarding account # 501, Wastewater Collection System. PTO (paid time off) hours are being cashed in for an employee retiring soon. Account # 606 for wastewater, and #650-60 for water also was questioned. The Jet Vac truck recently had major repairs done at Blaisdell Equipment. The cross members and decking on the back had to be replaced. Philip McDonough moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to approve the reports as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Philip McDonough moved and David Belyea moved to approve the 2023 projected budget for water and wastewater as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

The Manager's report from Hugh Kirkpatrick is attached.

Trustee Aiken is concerned regarding the controversy of the \$250,000 donation to the CUD fiber project from the Caribou Hospital District at their 11/22/22 meeting. 11/28/22 the City Council declared the actions taken on 11/22/22 were invalid. Mr. Aiken questioned, since the City Council cannot change any vote of the Caribou Hospital District, if the offer still is valid. Since the vote was never rescinded by the CHD, Mr. Aiken wanted a vote to accept or not to accept the funds if they became available. Philip McDonough moved and David Martin seconded the motion not to accept the funds from the CHD. Mr. Aiken, McDonough, and Martin, voted in favor of not accepting, while Trustee David Belyea and Jay Kamm voted to accept the funds. Mr. Belyea stated the \$250,000 Donation from the CHD was an integral part of getting the broadband project off the ground.

Philip McDonough questioned disposal of sludge and PFAS. Manager Kirkpatrick explained with our new wastewater plant, we have a schedule set up to maintain the sludge and not let it build up for 30 years as in the past.

President Aiken asked for a vote requiring the District to get Trustees approval of any purchase exceeding \$5,000. David Belyea and Jay Kamm both felt the threshold of \$5,000 was too low and suggested at least \$10,000.00. Gary Aiken moved and Philip McDonough seconded the motion for CUD to get an approval of any vehicle or mobile equipment purchase exceeding \$10,000. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M. The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 12th.

Sue T. Sands, District Clerk, Office Manager

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vUEUekfcMY>

Manager' Report

A. Water Projects:

High Service Area Booster Pump Station Upgrade Project (2022-14) – On Wednesday February 22nd, a kick-off meeting was held virtually to start the project. CUD, Dirigo Engineering, the Drinking Water Program and Apex Construction participated. The next steps in the project; Apex to provide material/equipment submittals and project schedules to Dirigo and the District for approval so everything can be ordered. By next meeting we should have a better understanding of construction start dates and progress milestones throughout the project.

Water Tank Painting Project (2023-07) – No change in status from last month. We will resubmit this project in the fall of 2023 for 2024 funding.

New River Crossing Project (2023-08) – No change in status from last month. We will resubmit this project in the fall of 2023 for 2024 funding.

B. 35 York Street – No update

C. River Road Lot – Seller found a different buyer for the property. Penny informed me on 3/7 the property was sold on 2/24, sell price not yet available.

D. Fiber Project:

City Council has formed an ad-hoc broadband committee. The committee has met twice and Gary attended the last meeting yesterday morning. The committee is considering many options. If they are interested in building their own project, the District should consider supporting them. A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Business Investment Group, Caribou Economic Growth Council and the City regarding the purchase of the design of a dark fiber network by Pioneer Broadband is provided for your information.

E. Other Issues:

-The District has hired a new Water/Wastewater Technician; Shea Daly. His first day is 3/14/23.

-Penny has been working with Bethany Zell and Christina Kane-Gibson to update the City's website and they want to include the District in that update with more District information including meeting schedules, meeting minutes and excess capacity of drinking water and treatment systems.

-Over the past weekend, a homeless individual attempted to make a temporary domicile in the cardboard recycling corral on the north side of the water garage. Caribou FD alerted the District personnel on duty and the homeless individual was asked to leave the property. No further incident occurred.