

The monthly meeting of the Caribou Utilities District was held Wednesday October 9, 2024 in the City Council Chambers located at 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine.

Trustees Present

Gary Aiken, President
David Martin, Treasurer
Philip McDonough, Asst Treas.
David Belyea, Trustee
Jay Kamm, Trustee

Others Present

Jonathan Helstrom, General Manager
Sue T Sands, Office Mgr, District Clerk
Danielle Brissette, Caribou City Clerk

President Gary Aiken opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. Philip McDonough moved and Jay Kamm seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2024 meeting as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

The budget and financial reports were reviewed with the Trustees. Sue explained that the Health Insurance account for both the water and wastewater was extremely high for the month. Each year employees who are not on the Company Health Insurance are reimbursed 75% of the total single premium of the POS 200 plan after showing proof of insurance with another source. The projected budget for 2024 for Health Insurance and Office Expense had errors which has resulted in an overage for 2024. The errors were explained to the Trustees. Sue reported to the Trustees that the loan for the Hatch Wastewater plant which was built in 2004 has been paid in full. Dave Belyea moved and Philip McDonough seconded the motion to accept the reports as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Trustee Gary Aiken questioned the outsourcing of the water bills and would like to have more information regarding the cost.

The format for the budget report will be reviewed for another year, and sub accounts probably will be set up under some of the line items which will make the report easier to understand. The account # 701, salaries for wastewater was questioned, and after reviewing the account, the quarterly payment for the Trustees was included in the monthly total.

Manager Helstrom reported to the trustees that a second backup server will be in the water garage which will prevent loss of any backup material in case the office should be broken into, robbed, etc. The siding and roofing on the office building and roofing on the water garage was completed October 4, 2024. The efficiency Maine rebate for the heat pumps will only be \$2,000.00 due to the age of the heating system. The pumps have been ordered, and once received, the contractor will start the installation.

The application for the second river crossing has been submitted, and hopefully the District will receive a higher score. The FEMA grant application was submitted, but a few changes was requested, and this will be taken care of and resubmitted. Trustee Belyea suggested he would like for the employees to attend a work zone safety seminar since there are so many contractors working in the City on different jobs.

The water rate case was received by the PUC 09/26/24 after several corrections were made on Private and Public Fire Protection. Hopefully this will be finalized soon. David Belyea moved and Philip McDonough seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 P.M. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Sue T Sands, Office Manager, District Clerk

