

# Tri-Town Water District No. 1

## Commission Meeting

### FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Chairman Darwin Pratt called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Commissioners present were: Darwin Pratt, Steve Kayhart, Ernie Audet, Larry Simino, Ed James, Drexel Wheeler, Lance Wood, and Adam Thomann.

Also present was: Tricia Gordon, Dwayne Roberts, and Jennifer Sullivan from Tri-Town Water.

Amendments to the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes: None

Tap-Ons:

- Logan Marsano was present to discuss tap on request at 800 Jersey St in Addison. Requesting a 1 inch tap on and reports show an 83 psi coming into the house. Dwayne noted a pit is not needed but a road bore will be at Logan's expense. Logan planning to complete in spring/summer 2026. Larry made a motion to approve the tap-on request. Adam seconded. All in favor; motion approved.

O.C.E – Robert Clark – Bond Loan/Vote Discussion:

- Dwayne discussed the email received regarding timing of the parts for the third filter noting delay in shipping with a worse possible date of April. Dwayne called WesTech with no luck of getting ahold of them prior to the meeting. Robert Clark
- Robert noted we have a signed contract and both Robert and Dwayne are in agreement the project cannot occur in April and will have to be delayed.
- Robert mentioned talking with Penta to see if they could potentially use the time and space and work on the fourth filter instead. He also noted that we cannot have four filters running and will need a permit to construct.
- It was noted that WesTech is the only company that makes this so we are stuck. It was also noted that delay could cost us more money.
- Penta should understand the delay and Rob can reach out to Kingsbury if need be.
- If we cannot do anything now, we could lump it all into one big project for late fall work beginning Nov 1. It was noted however that it would not necessarily save money by lumping into one larger project.
- Bond vote discussion followed noting it could not be remembered if a bond lawyer was used for the tank project. Robert provided Jenn and Trish the language used from the tank project updated for current projects. The grant applications do include fees for legal need and it was noted that waiting until the primary in August would be too late. It was recommended that a special meeting occur and May timeframe was discussed. Vote in May would likely mean approval in August/September. There is required paperwork due the end of June. Applications take about 3 or 4 months
- Discussion around needed to put together a narrative for the public. Put together information for the informational meeting and to keep the language generic. It was noted that Drexel discussed at the Bridport selectboard meeting and Steve mentioned it might be helpful to do the same for Addison and Shoreham.

- Robert will call Penta and update them.
- Ernie made a motion to approve Keith Roberts as our bond lawyer with a stated fee of \$4,500. Steve seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

#### Bank CD Discussion:

- Jenn noted the EastRise Credit Union CD matures March 6 and has a current balance of approximately \$260,000. It is Jenn's recommendation that when this CD matures, we move \$150k into the VT Fed CU to help cover the remaining 50% due for the 3<sup>rd</sup> filter project. The remaining \$110k can be put into a new CD. Jenn recommends a different bank as we struggle with contacting EastRise. Jenn shared a list of local banks and their CD rates for 6 or 7 month CDs. To keep balances at banks less than \$250k, Jenn recommends a CD at Bar Harbor bank which has the highest interest rate. Drexel made a motion to move all funds from EastRise when the CD matures into a \$110k CD at Bar Harbor and the remaining funds to the VT Fed CU money market account. Seconded by Larry. All in favor; motion approved.

Tricia Gordon reported on the delinquent accounts list noting usual list with one large account. Dwyane will go out and talk to the client. Shut off date is next week. It was noted that drive by meters are saving time.

#### Superintendent's report:

- Dwyane discussed the email received regarding timing of the parts for the third filter noting delay in shipping with a worse possible date of April. Dwyane called WesTech with no luck of getting ahold of them prior to the meeting.
- Dwayne noted a leak with water building up in driveway on Holmes Place. Had an excavator out with water coming down the hill; dug under the drain and no chlorine in water so not TriTown leak. VTrans cleaned covert and it was noted that the church put in new driveway recently and broke valve box.
- Another leak on 22a from 12 inch AC. Dwyane noted cannot put AC pipe in ground anymore. Repair required two special couplings and one snapped. No other parts available from Vergennes Panton water district or EJP. Had to get water flowing so it was backfilled but will need to open it back up and repair.
- Aware of a leak on Torrey Ln on Swamp Island. Will need to cut down trees and have to dig the leak. There is no better spot for the line. Noted that there are a lot of camps in that area and it was mentioned that mats are available to rent to bring excavator out on.
- Dwayne noted that the waste pumps were back washed and are running. Reliance came and serviced generator.
- State wants timeline for the upcoming projects. Dwayne will update them.
- Noted that planning rehabilitation of filter is key. And now going through this process, we will know to plan out more in advance
- Discussion followed regarding our gallons pumped versus gallons billed noting that the hope is we are billing more gallons. There is a filter that reads the amount of water coming out of the plant, but discussion around if this meter needs replacing. Should look at the amount billed on a quarterly basis to reflect actual usage for they way water is billed in three routes.

#### Other Business:

- Jim Larrow of Algonquin Drive in Addison was present and shared pictures of his faucet to highlight his water quality noting he has to clean them once a month. He does not have a filter system and asked about Tri-Town's plans to improve water quality. Discussion followed around the third and fourth

filters projects and timing. Jim asked about how the fourth filter will be helping with demand with Dwyane noting the fourth filter will help slow them all down to 300 gallons a minute. This will help filter more out of the water. Jim also asked if the State of Vermont has been involved at all with Dwyane noting that the State has come down to the plant and has looked at the procedures with the end result noting no changes needed to Dwyane' approach. Jim discussed his water quality noting the black in the photo comes out as slime and when it was cleaned out, his pressure increased. He noted that he knows he is on a dead end and that it impacts his shower and bath tub and neighbors have issues as well.

Personnel: Motion made by Steve and seconded by Drexel to go into executive session at 7:26 PM.

Motion made by Ernie and seconded by Larry to go out of executive session at 8:00 PM.

Ernie Audet made a motion that Steve and Lance meet with all four employees in the next month; seconded by Larry Simino. The motion passed.

There being no further business, Chairman Darwin Pratt adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Kindest Regards, *Jennifer Sullivan*-Jennifer Sullivan-Clerk