

Tri-Town Water District No. 1

Commission Meeting

March 20, 2025

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

Commissioners present were: Steve Kayhart, Larry Simino, Adam Thomann, Drexel Wheeler, Ernest Audet, and Scott Douglas.

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

No amendment to the minutes from February 2025's meeting.

Tap-Ons: First, regarding Ernest Audet's request to put a 1 ½ inch line across 22A down Cross Street in Bridport to provide water to a manure pond where a future barn will be constructed. He is waiting for results/information from his engineer to obtain an allocation approval letter. Second, Jamie Simpson from Landmark Engineering was present to represent Gosliga Farm in Addison who is requesting a 1" tap for 600 gpd for a new calf barn. This is a 2 inch line that comes off VT RTE 17 and down Sunset Lane; currently there are three water services on Sunset Lane. A motion was made by Ernest Audet to approve the tap on request; seconded by Larry Simino. The motion passed.

Third, Alethea Bahncks was present for a 2 lot subdivision for two separate ¾" tap on requests on Holstein Drive in Bridport. It is a 2" line off an 8" line that goes down Holstein Drive which is a dead end. There is 79 PSI coming into the house. Drexel Wheeler makes a motion to approve the connections; seconded by Ernest Audet. The motion passed. Forth & Lastly, Robert Otty and his engineer, Greg Mckenney, were present to discuss a tap on request that originally was to be off of Crown Point Road in Bridport but has been revised to come off of Swinton Rd instead due to size reduction of tap on (was 1" down to ¾"), they will not be using as much water as thought. Therefore this will be a ¾" tap and then run a 1" pipe. There is 66 PSI coming into the house and no issues are seen. Larry Simino makes a motion to approve the Otty connection; seconded by Steve Kayhart. The motion passed.

The election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Scott Douglas nominates Darwin Pratt for Chairman of the board; seconded by Adam Thomann. The motion passed.

Darwin nominates Steve Kayhart for Vice Chairman of the board; seconded by Ernest Audet. The motion passed.

There was an update on the new hire process. Darwin, Steve & Drexel had meet with two different candidates; all feeling more interviewing should be completed. There is another applicant that has not been interviewed as of date. The Indeed ad is still active as of date.

Darwin Pratt updated the board on the resignation of our treasurer; Katie Shimel has resigned effective March 18, 2025. Board briefly discussed finding a replacement.

The board briefly discussed updating/making amendments to the tap on procedures. No motions made at this time, further discussion to be had.

The board briefly discussed charging a fee to customers who opt out or refuse to have a new drive-by meter installed; therefore we would still have to read these meters manually. Ernest Audet makes a motion to charge a quarterly fee of \$50 to customers who choose to opt out; seconded by Larry Simino. The motion passed.

It was discussed afterwards to look into the legality of the district being able to charge such a fee. Will check with VLCT and the board will need to update/amend the Rules & Regulations of Tri-Town Water to reflect this change. It was mentioned that the R&R should be reviewed at a later time for any other amendments seen necessary.

Customer complaints; a few have been presented to the office this past month. A voicemail message from an irate customer left on the office phone was played for the board. As the customer did not state their name in the message no action will be taken. We received two letters from two different customers; one wanting Tri-Town Water to pay for their water filtration system and had sent invoices stating they insist on payment. The seconded, a customer who does not want Tri-Town on their property, refuses a drive-by meter and is unsatisfied with the quality of water. The letter was rude towards Tri-Town Water. Dwayne briefly explained a previous confrontation of a service call visit. It was thought best to address these two customers with a letter explaining the Rules & Regulations set by Tri-Town Water. A motion was made by Steve Kayhart to address the complaints by sending a letter to each customer stating our by-laws; seconded by Adam Thomann. The motion passed.

Tricia Gordon reported on the delinquent accounts list; the current list has a shut off date of 3/25/2025 with a few customers left to obtain payment from. A new list will be presented at next month's meeting.

Superintendent's report: A leak on Market Road in Bridport near Nobles property has been repaired. A leak by Eugene Audet's on Basin Harbor Rd in Bridport was repaired today. Dwayne reported on the Lead & Copper project and that we have 113 unknown services that per the EPA we need to send a letter out to those customers by April 7th and must send certification of completion to the VT DEC by April 17th. Dwayne discussed briefly to make the board aware that the 4th filter at the water plant will be a great addition and will distribute a better quality of water, although there is worry that in the future the water plant will not be able to keep up with the demand of gallons being pumped. The plant maximum amount of water pumped in a day is 1.7 million gallons, we currently pump about one million (give or take) gallons/day.

Darwin updated board that one of our CD's is coming up for renewal. Discussed some rates Darwin obtained at some local banks. A motion was made by Steve Kayhart to move the money to another bank at a higher rate; seconded by Drexel Wheeler. The motion passed.

Steve briefly mentioned that the new drive-by fee should be added to our rate structure; Trish will add to our rates. Also he thinks that someone on the board should revisit the tap on procedures and go through the by-laws etc and make sure they are compliable for today's times. Food for thought.

Drexel brought up the EPA Grant and explained that the ad for bids for an engineer is running in the paper for two weeks. Drexel also presented the project narrative for the project which Robert Clark from O.C.E. worked on and will submit. The board feels confident with Robert Clark's expertise and feels it is sufficient to submit to the EPA. A motion is needed in order to submit the narrative. A motion was made by Drexel Wheeler to approve the narrative; seconded by Steve Kayhart. The motion passed.

Adam Thomann makes a motion to go into executive session at 7:05 pm; seconded by Larry Simino.

Ernie Audet makes a motion to come out of executive session at 7:45; seconded by. No motions made.

There being no further business, Chairman Pratt adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Kindest Regards, *Tricia Gordon*-Tricia Gordon-Clerk/Office Manager