

**BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Charter Change Public Hearing**  
**11 December 2014**

**Approved Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees Public Hearing regarding proposed changes to the District's Charter for the Brunswick Sewer District was called to order by General Manager Blanchette at 6:35 PM on Thursday, 11 December 2014, in the Board Room at District offices at 10 Pine Tree Road, Brunswick, Maine. A prepared agenda was noted and the meeting was recorded.

Members present: Chair Priest, Trustee Green, Barbour, Harvey and Rice.

Others present: General Manager (GM) Blanchette, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Pontau, Administrative Assistant Bonnie Shippen (minutes), and Camera Operator Dan Munsey. Also present were Mr. Stuart Kay, Superintendent for Topsham Sewer District.

Members absent: Finance Manager (FM) Caron.

**Meeting Advertisement**

The meeting was advertised in the Friday, 21 November 2014, editions of the *Times Record*, and *The Forecaster*; also in the Friday, 28 November 2014 editions of the *Times Record* and *The Forecaster*. Also noted was an article published in the 05 December 2014 issue of *The Forecaster* and the 10 December 2014 issue of the *Times Record*. Chair Priest noted the articles provided full detail for the public.

**Discuss Charter Change Process**

GM Blanchette referenced Page 16, Part 6, Sec. 51 of the District Charter, which states that amendments to the Charter require that "prior to proposing any Charter amendments to the Town Council, the Trustees shall hold a public hearing to receive citizens' comments of the subject. The Trustees shall publish a summary of the proposed amendments and notice of the hearing at least twice in a local newspaper in consecutive weeks, not less than 7 days prior to the hearing. Upon approval of the Town Council, the amendments shall be sent to the Legislature for enactment."

**Present proposed change to the District's Charter**

GM Blanchette referenced Page 6, Part 4, Sec. 31, §1 of the Charter which states "The total indebtedness at any time shall not exceed \$20,000,000." He noted this was adopted in 1988 and he is requesting an amendment to the Charter to increase the debt limit to \$40,000,000. He noted the purpose is to fund the Treatment Plant upgrade and pipe replacement. GM Blanchette noted that this was the only change he is recommending at this time.

GM Blanchette noted that the Treatment Plant Upgrade is estimated to cost \$22 million and MDEP may be requiring other changes within the next five years. The current debt limit of \$20 million will not be sufficient to complete the upgrade, let alone any additional work MDEP may require of us. AGM Pontau noted that there are also capital projects that need to be completed. GM Blanchette noted that the next step is to hear comments from the public, have the Board vote on the amendment, then seek approval of the Town Council. He noted the Town Council meets on 15 December 2014 and the approval of the Charter amendment is on the agenda. He noted it will then go to the Legislature, most likely in early 2015, for their approval and then to the public for a referendum, potentially November 2015. Only after approval of the referendum would the Charter change go into effect.

Chair Priest explained the process in the Legislature and that it would then go to the Governor for signature after Legislative approval.

**Public Comment**

There was no comments from the public.

**Remarks from the Chair:**

Chair Priest thanked those in attendance.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the public hearing was closed at 6:48 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
David N. Barbour  
Clerk, Board of Trustees