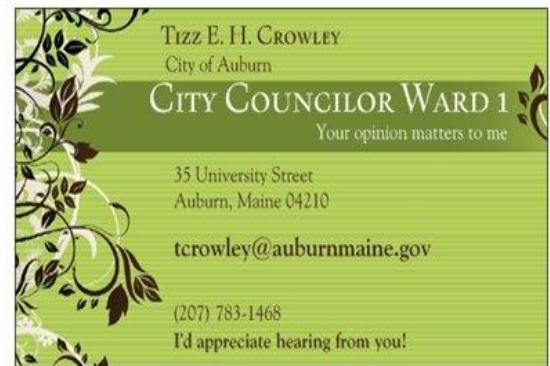


Auburn Sewerage Report for Meeting Monday 2015.01.05

TO: Residents of Auburn and the Auburn City Council
FROM: Tizz E. H. Crowley- Auburn City Council Ward 1



The Auburn Sewerage Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the District Office. The financial position of the Sewerage District remains stable with surplus from operations ahead of the budgeted amount by \$115,909; but we're only one month into the year. Expenses were higher than budget for the month because of the quarterly workers' compensation insurance payment. Industrial surcharge revenue was down primarily due to one major customer. Unless reviewing the agenda packets, the public may not realize that each month the Trustees review every payment made by the District. Detailed information is provided to any question raised.

With the large volume of snow and the need to clear fire hydrants, the Sewer crews also helped with hydrant maintenance. A "thank-you" also goes to the Auburn Fire Department and many Auburn residents who shoveled and cleared hydrants nearby. Every minute counts in an emergency.

The Trustees received an update on members whose terms are expiring in March. Mr. Jeffery (Pete) Preble has not submitted his name for reappointment. In the past 20 years, Mr. Preble has served the District as a Trustee, and officer, and the President's Representative to LAWPCA. Mr. Preble will be missed by his colleagues and staff at the Sewer District. The Sewer President will likely appointment another person to represent him/her at the annual meeting in April. The challenge is the appointee must be a District Trustee. As a professional engineer, Mr. Preble was a valuable resource and will be missed in this capacity as well. It may be appropriate to review this charter requirement and change to select the best qualified person.

In discussion about the CSO Master Plan 5 year update, it was reported that the City of Lewiston wanted to outsource a part of the project to CDM Smith for a total contract of \$122,000. Auburn Sewer District Trustees tabled the matter until a future meeting. There was concern about the estimated hours allocated to Auburn and to the issue of single source arrangements. The City of Lewiston raised this very issue when Auburn felt time was of the essence to fix the intake pipe at the Lake, but Lewiston expressed concern over the single source plans. Lewiston delayed action on this urgent matter for several months.

The Water and Sewerage Districts have put out an RFQ for a consultant to conduct Team Building and Leadership Development Program. Details to reply for this RFQ are on the District website.

Sewer Tip of the Month (source: InsuranceHotline.com): "Every home is at risk of basement flooding, even if there has never been a flooding incident. Water in your basement is most likely to occur when there's been a heavy rainfall, snow is melting or we're experiencing a spring thaw." Let's hope spring comes soon.

What causes basement flooding on private property?

- A crack or leak in your home's foundation, basement walls, or basement windows or door.
- Poor lot grading or drainage.
- Overflowing eaves troughs.
- Leaking or plugged downspouts.
- A blocked connection between your home and the main sewer in the street.
- A back-up of wastewater in the sewer system.
- Failure of a sump pump (in some homes) used to pump weeping tile water.

What you can do inside the house?

- Ensure that your plumbing is in good working condition. Homeowners are responsible for the plumbing from the property line to inside the home. The Sewer District is responsible for the public portion of the service line.
- Hire a City-licensed and qualified plumber to install a backwater valve and a properly-sized sump pump and piping.
- Ensure the proper and regular maintenance of basement flooding devices in your home.
- Sump pumps need power to operate, so consider installing a back-up power source.
- Avoid carpet in the basement, which retains water and is harder to clean up.
- Avoid flushing objects down the toilet, such as Legos and children's toys, dental floss, condoms, tampons, razor blades, non-biodegradable products, etc., which can block the sewer pipe.