

Auburn Water District

Role and Function of Trustees

By Superintendent, John Storer

The Auburn Water District was created by an act of the State Legislature in 1923. The District is a quasi-municipal water utility providing public drinking water and fire protection services to the citizens of the City of Auburn, Maine. The District treats and delivers approximately 1 billion gallons of water annually, or slightly more than 2.7 million gallons per day to 6,500 metered connections.

The fiscal and operational decisions of the District are made by a seven-member Board of Trustees. The City Council appoints 6 of the Trustees on staggered 4-year terms. The Mayor is allocated the 7th position, but historically the Mayor has appointed a designated representative (usually a current City Councilor) to provide a direct liaison back to the City Council. The Water District employs a full-time Superintendent to implement and oversee the day-to-day business operations of the District.

The projected 2014 Water District Budget is about \$3.37 million. Trustee meetings are open to the public and are tentatively scheduled to take place at 4:00 PM every third Wednesday of the month at the District office building at 268 Court Street.

Specific responsibilities of the Trustees include approving the annual budget, establishing customer rates, and implementing general employment policies.

Serving as the Superintendent, it is helpful to have Board members with diverse and varying backgrounds. I believe it is beneficial to have a few long-standing members, such that there is continuity and institutional knowledge in regards to some long-standing issues.

Although there is nothing specifically listed in the original District Charter, historical practice has tried to accommodate a representative from each of the 5 City Wards.

In my opinion, any citizen of Auburn could serve effectively as a Trustee. The person would just need to devote sufficient time and attention to reviewing monthly reports and data. Related skills as a private business owner, engineer, chemist, fire service, accounting, legal, financial, etc. might provide some valued skills to diversify the Trustee make-up.