

**CORINNA WATER DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2024**

The Corinna Water District Trustees met in the private library at the Stewart Library Building. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Trustee Jim Louder, Town Manager Lois Jones, Selectman Dennis Carr, and Maine Rural Water Association Executive Director Kirsten Hebert, and Associate Executive Director Brad Sawyer.

- Introductions were made to begin the meeting. Due to a lack of a quorum of Trustees, no votes were taken.
- The following brief outline was presented about CWD's current status and future concerns...
 - Mid 90's – 2004: The DEP assisted in operating the Corinna Water District. Subsidy was paid by the DEP because the Eastland Woolen Mill went bankrupt and could not pay the money they had agreed to pay when the District was formed. The DEP stopped paying a subsidy in 2004, and the CWD was left to operate solely on revenues from consumer fees.
 - A new Trio Program for Water Utilities will go into effect beginning in 2025—which will allow the district to comply with the Maine Public Utilities Commission's Accounting System.
 - The CWD will lose at least 2 trustees in March of 2025, which will mean there will not be a quorum of 2 trustees, which is necessary to conduct business. (There is currently no one interested in being appointed to replace these trustees).
 - As current trustees leave, there are not only vacancies, but a loss of institutional knowledge.
 - CWD's service area is too small and financially unable (32 customers) to provide adequate revenues.
 - On a positive note, the CWD is currently financially solvent. We currently have a \$32,000+ Capital Reserve fund provided by the town; \$6000+ in and Operating Reserve money market account at the SVFCU; and \$19,000+ in a Capital Reserve CD at the SVFCU....AND...We have NO DEBT.
- Discussion ensued regarding what happens if or when there are not enough trustees to conduct business. It was stressed that we MUST continue using Olver Associates as the water system's operator. Also a new rate increase needs to be applied for and be ready to be implemented prior to our loss of trustees. It was determined that if trustees can not be replaced, thus leaving the District unable to conduct business, then according to Maine State Law (LD 245) the MPUC will investigate our situation and most likely appoint a receiver (which will be costly) to take over the operation of our system.
- It was decided that Lois and Jim should take this information to the Select Board meeting on August 14th and discuss the following two options. **1) See if the Select Board would be willing to become the receiver (if the MPUC should choose to select them) until they can appoint enough trustees to enable the CWD to conduct business...OR... 2) Be willing to pursue the legal process of the making the Water District a department of the town.**
- Adjournment: 10:35 a.m.