

Minutes of Freeport Sewer District
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, August 18, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Trustees and Staff in Attendance: Chair Michael Ashby, Vice-Chair Chad Coffin (arrived at 6:15 P.M.), Treasurer Thomas Hudak, Vice-Treasurer Kathryn Wallingford, Clerk Marissa Elliott, Trustees Timothy Whitacre and Molly Lincoln, and Construction Manager/Senior Advisor Leonard Blanchette. General Manager Randall is on vacation.

Members of the public in attendance: Reginald Leese.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Ashby called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **Public Comment:** Chair Ashby opened the Public Comment period. Mr. Leese asked about the status of the 2024 financial audit report. CM Blanchette noted the draft audit is not complete and is expected soon. There being no other public comment, Chair Ashby moved to close the public comment period, seconded by Trustee Whitacre. Unanimous approval of Trustees present.

3. **Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2025:** Vice-Treasurer Wallingford moved to accept the minutes of meeting as presented, seconded by Whitacre. Unanimous approval of the Trustees present.

4. **Financial Reports.** The reports were reviewed. Treasurer Hudak moved to accept the July Financial Reports, seconded by Clerk Elliott. Unanimous approval of the Trustees present.

Trustee Whitacre asked if there had been any response from Mr. Yilmaz regarding his appeal at last month's meeting. CM Blanchette responded that Mr. Yilmaz had invited him for a coffee. Mr. Yilmaz was disappointed in the Board's decision but understood it.

5. WWTP & Pump Station Facilities Rehab & Upgrade

a. Administration & Laboratory Building. Bids for the Administration/Laboratory building construction were opened on Tuesday, August 12th. Nine bids were received. Doten's Construction was the low bid of \$1,856,907. Based on the bids review conducted by the District's engineers, Woodard & Curran, and with concurrence by USDA-RD, it was recommended that the Board award the contract to the low bidder, Doten's Construction.

It was moved by Vice-Treasurer Wallingford, seconded by Treasurer Hudak, that the Board of Trustees of the Freeport Sewer District, upon the recommendation of its engineers, Woodard & Curran, and the concurrence of that recommendation by USDA-RD, award the contract for the Administration/Laboratory construction to Doten's Construction, the low bidder, for the base bid total project price of \$1,856,907. Unanimous approval by Trustees.

b. Timeline. Bid request for the balance for Phase 2 will go out at the end of month.

c. Pay Requisition #9. Pay Requisition #9 has been submitted in the amount of \$29,937.46, of which \$3,687.46 is a reimbursement to the District. The total amount requisitioned to-date is \$1,509,515.98 from the project budget of \$20,132,000.

d. Pump Station Easements. CM Blanchette reported that the property owners next to the Harraseeket Park pump station are opposed to the structure proposed for the site. They provided a copy of the original warranty deed that notes no structure or building may be erected. Our attorney's review of the deed found this restriction is for the property owners and refers to the easement areas, not our pump station site which we own. Another meeting with the owners is scheduled. LL Bean is reviewing our request.

6. Force Mains

a. MDOT re: Desert Road Force Main Repair. FSD staff met with MDOT to discuss reimbursement of the District's cost to repair the force main hit by MDOT's contractor. MDOT has agreed to reimburse the district for the full cost of \$41,788.

b. Route 1 Earmark. FSD's request for a congressional grant of \$3.9M for the replacement of the Route 1 force main was not awarded. We will resubmit for 2026.

7. Executive Session pursuant to MRS 1, §405, 6. E. to discuss a Legal Matter. Trustee Whitacre asked that this item be moved to the end of the meeting so that members of the public would not have to leave and then return for the remainder of the meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to do so.

8. Communications. Clerk Elliott and GM Randall have been working to develop a website.

9. Cross-Country Sewer Line Stream Bank Stabilization. The work to stabilize the stream that threatened to undermine the district's interceptor line on Rod Regier's property has been completed. Photos of the before and after were viewed by the Trustees. Blanchette noted he had visited the site during the work and the contractor did an excellent job. He reminded the Trustees of their commitment to fund up to \$17,000 of the cost, and the expected total cost is \$15,995.

10. Superintendent's Report. No report for July.

11. PFAS Product Liability Litigation. SL Environmental Law Group is preparing litigation against the producers of PFAS. They have approached FSD to join the suite. A number of Maine districts and communities have already done so. It was moved by Trustee Whitacre, seconded by Treasurer Hudak, that a representative from the firm attend the September Board meeting. Unanimous approval of the Trustees.

7. (Moved out of order) Exe. Session pursuant to MRS 1, §405, 6.E. to discuss a legal matter. It was moved by Trustee Whitacre, seconded by Treasurer Hudak to enter into executive session to discuss a legal matter pursuant to MRS 1, subsection 405, 6. E. Unanimous vote by the Trustees. Trustees entered executive session at 6:22 P.M. Vice-Chair Coffin moved, seconded by Trustee Whitacre, to return from executive session at 6:27 P.M. Unanimous approval of Trustees. No action was taken by the Board during executive session, and no action was taken subsequent to the executive session.

12. Upcoming Meetings: The next two meetings will be September 15 and October 20.

13. Adjournment. There being no further business before the board, it was moved by Trustee Whitacre, seconded by Vice-treasurer Wallingford, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 P.M. Unanimous approval of Trustees.