

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, August 2, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce
Tom Mack, Resident**

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- July 5, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2023 as amended. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Update

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, gave an update on RWD ongoing projects. Referring to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) applications that were submitted on behalf of RWD, the PFAS water treatment facility made the funding list, which has principal forgiveness associated with emerging contaminants. Funding for each project is capped at ten million, so there is a grant/loan potential of ten million dollars associated with SRF. Jenn Mates from NH DES will meet with the Commissioners within the next couple of weeks to give more information on the funding program. He recommended going after additional funding through the Trust Fund and starting that process this fall, in order to move the project forward. RWD has been approved for a grant from NH DES to conduct the water treatment plant pilot work, which can begin once the grant is approved and signed by the Commission.

RWD is waiting to hear back from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in regards to the water source investigation on the Brown Lane Farm property. The work on the Wallis

Road main replacement will begin again in September. For the tank painting project, there is some additional information needed and Wright-Pierce will be meeting with DES to discuss a plan for moving forward on soil remediation. The intention is to still complete that work next year.

In regards to the Assessment Management Project, Mr. Berg noted that the action item is the level of service revisions with a meeting between the Commissioners and DES. The water rate study is also in progress and is coming to a completion. A kick-off meeting will be held later this month for the lead service inventory line work, as that grant agreement has been approved.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) grant for the Garland Road water main. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) grant for the WTP Benchmark Piloting. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to authorize Ralph Hickson to be the authorized signatory for both grants. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for July

Superintendent Arik Jones reviewed his monthly reports and pumping charts for the month of July.

- The pumping data and flow charts were reviewed with the Commissioners.
- The tank mixer was replaced. The mixer itself was covered under the warranty; however, RWD had to pay for the installation.
- The site work for the point of entry building will be completed within the next couple of days. Superintendent Jones presented photos showing the interior of the building. A target starting date for the chlorination equipment and operations in the building is the week of August 21st.
- There has been some interest in the open water operator position. Superintendent Jones will be conducting interviews over the next couple of weeks. The intent is to fill that open position by October 1st.
- The District's new truck is currently being outfitted with equipment this week and should be completed within the week.
- Bacterial samples will be pulled within the next few days for the month of August.
- Foreman Greg Vaillancourt has been focusing on updating meters out in the system. The crew has updated between fifty and sixty meters, so far this year, with another eighty in stock. The goal is to replace between one hundred and one hundred fifty by the end of the year.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Superintendent's report for the month of July. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Reports for July

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow and expenditure reports for the month of July. There were no areas of concern noted by the Commissioners.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the cash flow reports for the month of July. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

None

VII. Old Business

a. Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

The Commissioners reviewed the CIP sheets for seven projects that have been submitted to the Capital Improvements Plan for the Town. Status sheets will be submitted for the Wallis Road main replacement project and Garland pump house upgrade, as those projects are coming to completion with final costs available for the submittals. CIP sheets for future RWD projects for the years 2024 – 2029 include: Sagamore Road pump station rehab; Washington Road tank maintenance; Breakfast Hill water tank maintenance; and water treatment plant.

b. RWD Informational Update Meeting for Fall

The Commissioners discussed a possible date to hold a public meeting to update the residents on projects the District has been working on over the past year and provide information on intended projects moving forward. It was agreed to hold a meeting on September 28th, 6:30 a.m., at the Rye Junior High. Superintendent Jones will reach out to the school to reserve the cafeteria for the meeting.

c. On-Call Wage Proposal

Business Manager Dyana Ledger presented an on-call wage proposal for the water operators based on a plan that is in place for DPW personnel to be on-call during the winter for snowplowing the town roads. The Commissioner agreed that an on-call wage would be appropriate and asked that a draft policy be presented at a future meeting for further review of the details. The wage proposal would need to be voted on by the Commission if the intent is to put it in place for the 2024 budget.

VIII. New Business

a. Meter Replacement Program

Superintendent Jones spoke to the Commissioners about a possible meter replacement program which would allow the District to purchase meters at today's pricing with a payment plan over the next three years. The intent is to replace older meters in the system with new Kamstrup

meters, in order to streamline and fully upgrade the system. There was some discussion on whether a warrant article would be needed in order to move forward with a purchase that would be over a three-year period. There was also discussion on the possibility of using the Extensions and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund to cover some of the costs, as the Commissioners are authorized to expend from this fund. It was agreed that more information is needed for further discussion at a future meeting.

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

X. Other Business

a. Fall Town Newsletter deadline August 21st

The Town Newsletter deadline is August 21st. Commissioner Marion agreed to draft an article to submit to Janice Ireland in the Select Board's Office.

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger