

RYE WATER DISTRICT MEETING

April 6, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

Commissioners Present:

Ralph Hickson, Chair
Art Ditto

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Phil Winslow, Selectman

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – March 2nd

Motion by Art Ditto to approve the minutes of March 2, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce

Chris Berg, Wright Pierce, gave an update to the Commissioners regarding ongoing projects for the Water District. The Garland pumphouse project is nearly completed. There are a couple of functional items that Apex needs to address. After which time, final completion documents can be drafted. The next step would be to wrap up some of the site development work related to the driveway and fencing. He will be submitting an amendment for engineering services related to site development assistance.

Referring to the Wallis Road main replacement project, Mr. Berg noted that he sent Superintendent Jones information on the evaluation of the bids. Overall, the bids looked good. North East Construction used the wrong bid form; however, it doesn't change anything in regards to what Wright Pierce would recommend for an award. The recommendation is to move forward with Wickson Construction for both the base bid and the alternate. The proposed revised budget for construction was \$616,000 and Wickson Construction came in with a bid of \$617,000. Mr. Berg will be preparing a construction administration RPR agreement and will send it to the Water District. The project still has to be presented to the Governing Council for approval, which will be done in May or June.

Mr. Berg reported that he is working with Louis Adorno at DES to get the asset management project off the ground. The grant agreement will be developed within the next two weeks and will be sent to the District for signatures. The grant allows for a two-year window of time for the work to be completed. Mr. Berg is also working on estimates for the Washington Road tank painting for next year's budget. He will also be continuing to develop a conceptual design and cost estimate for the office booster pump station. He will also be working on the central water treatment plant concept for potentially submitting to the next round of SRF. The interconnection projects and treatment related projects have the best potential for getting funding.

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

Superintendent Arik Jones presented his monthly report and pumping information for the month of March.

- March had the highest monthly overall consumption over the past five years. It's also the highest annual average to the month of March. In looking at the totals from the beginning of the year to the end of March, it has gone from 6 million to 9.5 million at a consistent increase.
- Spring flushing will be starting on Monday the 11th.
- The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is being prepared at this time. The report needs to be completed and distributed by June 1st with a verification of completion by DES by June 10th.
- Interviews for the open operator's position have been ongoing.
- It was noted that the telecommunications lease for T-Mobile is coming up for renegotiations in 2024. The District will need to consider how to move forward with the lease agreement.
- Within the next week, Superintendent Jones will forward the commissioners information on a potential lease for the Port Way tower for the Water District to potentially place reading equipment on the structure.
- There have been no updates received from Aquarion in regards to the proposed interconnect on Route 1.
- All State samples have been pulled, including PFAS. The results should be available by the end of the month.

Motion by Art Ditto to accept the Superintendent's Report for the month of March. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Reports March

Business Manager Dyana Ledger presented the cash flow reports for the month of March. No areas of concern were noted.

Motion by Art Ditto to accept the cash flow reports for March. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

VI. Treasurer's Reports

The Commissioners reviewed the treasurer's report for the months of January and February.

**Motion by Art Ditto to accept the treasurer's report for the month of January 2022.
Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

**Motion by Art Ditto to accept the treasurer's report for the month of February 2022.
Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

VII. Correspondence

None

VIII. Old Business

a. Tuck/Benchmark Agreement

Commissioner Ditto noted that the plan shows that the Benchmark connection goes underneath the driveway and within 3ft of the end of the Aquarion pipe. The Tuck connection shows the line going under Route 1. He asked if there is a way to valve the Memory Care connection so it can connect to Aquarion to feed the Water District's system if needed.

Superintendent Jones explained that the Benchmark connection is proposed to run southerly from the existing main and run within 3ft to 4ft of the existing Aquarion main. In the future, if RWD ends up with the Aquarion main, the connection can be made at that point.

Commissioner Ditto pointed out that Tuck will not be connected to that pipe at all, as they will be running their line underneath the road to connect on the other side of Route 1.

Superintendent Jones noted that RWD already has a crossover on Route 1. The District doesn't really want to own another crossover with piping going into the DOT right-of-way. He continued that Mike Garrepy and Benchmark prefer to move forward with obtaining the Aquarion pipe for connection. By the time construction starts, if RWD has obtained the Aquarion pipe, the Tuck property and Benchmark are both onboard with going in that direction. He suggested having Attorney Quinn revise the proposed agreements to reflect that they agree to connect to the Aquarion pipe if it becomes available before construction.

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed agreement from RWD to Tuck and Benchmark. There were no issues or concerns with the agreement. Superintendent Jones will have Attorney Quinn draft up language for the agreement to address the alternative connection to the Aquarion pipe. He will also follow up with Planning Board Chair Patricia Losik to give her an update on the agreement.

b. Landfill Monitoring

Referring to Monitoring Well 102, Commissioner Ditto noted that the latest results from the Town is from April 2021. A spike was seen after April in the Garland well. He assumes there will be sampling done this year also.

Superintendent Jones confirmed. He spoke with the Town Administrator and the samples will be taken within the month.

IX. New Business

a. Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair)

Motion by Ralph Hickson to nominate Art Ditto as chair. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Motion by Art Ditto to nominate Ralph Hickson as vice-chair. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

b. Seavey Way, Greenland – Water Connection

Commissioner Ditto noted that he was able to find the water supply agreement, which was signed in January 2015. It was approved by voters at the annual meeting on March 28, 2015. He read from paragraph 8, Limited Supply:

The city agrees not to utilize water from the Rye Water District under this agreement to serve any properties other than those described above without further approval from the Rye Water District.

Motion by Art Ditto that in accordance with Paragraph 8 of the 2015 Water Supply Agreement between the City of Portsmouth and the Rye Water District, approved at the March 28, 2015 Rye Water District Annual Meeting, the City of Portsmouth's request to install a residential service connection to 399 Breakfast Hill Road is approved subject to the following conditions; 1.) The service connection is made at the existing water main located on Seavey Way; and 2.) The connection will be for domestic use only, no irrigation permitted.

Commissioner Ditto explained that the rationale for the conditions is that the District doesn't want the water mains changed. Also, the reason Portsmouth came to the Rye Water District is because they are required to provide this property with bottled water for drinking water. This approach is being taken in lieu of supplying bottled water, which is a reasonable approach. Bottled water is for drinking so this water will be provided for domestic use only. The basis for this is because of the mandate the State has issued to the City of Portsmouth to provide bottled water because the well at 399 Breakfast Hill Road exceeds the 1,4-dioxane standard.

Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

X. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No issues were noted

XI. Other Business

a. Special Meeting

At the Rye District Annual Meeting held on March 27th at the Rye Junior High, a bond article for the Wallis Road main replacement in the amount of \$852,000 was presented to the voters and passed by unanimous vote. At that time, the vote on Article #02 was not taken by ballot with the ballot box remaining open for one hour, which is required under RSA 33:8-a II for any warrant article proposing a bond in excess of \$100,000.

The Commissioners discussed the option of holding a special meeting for a revote on Article #02 following the requirements under RSA 31:5-b II (c) for a minor voting procedural defect. Under the requirements, the Commissioners need to vote on whether to hold a special meeting with a public notice of such meeting being posted within 24 hours of the vote. A notice must also be published in the local newspaper in the next possible publication. A public hearing explaining the reason for the special meeting is required to be held no less than 7 days before the scheduled meeting with the proper notice requirements being met.

The Commissioners reviewed a notice drafted by Attorney Quinn addressing the public hearing and special meeting.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to hold a special meeting on April 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rye Junior High to correct a minor voting procedural defect pertaining to Article #02 which was voted on at the Rye Water District's Annual Meeting on March 26, 2022, and furthermore, to schedule a public hearing for April 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., in order to explain the reasons for the special meeting.

Seconded by Art Ditto. Vote: 2-0 All in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by Art Ditto to adjourn at 11:14 p.m. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger