

RYE WATER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

Commissioners Present:

Arthur Ditto, Chair
Ralph Hickson
Scott Marion

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce
Howard Kalet, Rye Telecommunications Committee
Joann Price, Resident

I. Call to Order

Chair Ditto called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- September 7, 2022

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the September 7, 2022 meeting minutes as amended.
Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

III. Discussion w/Howard Kalet – Telecommunications Committee Chair **Re: telecommunications equipment lease renewals**

Howard Kalet, Telecommunications Committee Chair, met with the Commissioners to answer questions regarding the upcoming lease renewal between the Rye Water District and T-Mobile for the telecommunications equipment which is attached to the water tank on Lafayette Road. The renewal for T-Mobile is coming up in the year 2024. The question from the Rye Water District is whether the District should continue with T-Mobile or if there would be a different carrier that would be more beneficial for the Town.

Mr. Kalet noted that the owners of the Airfield Drive property are considering a cell tower for that property. However, the Water District has an advantage with the water tank because of the

height. He pointed out that the position of the tank on Lafayette Road is not ideal for the far side of the Town of Rye. The location would benefit the condominiums on Washington Road and the other developments along Route 1. Mr. Kalet also pointed out that the Telecommunications Committee is searching for another telecommunications location, but the water tank won't serve that need. The location needs to be closer to Rye Harbor. He suggested that the District wait until T-Mobile reaches out to renew their lease and for the District to consider adding one more carrier to the tank.

Superintendent Jones spoke about the disadvantages of having more cellular equipment on the tank from an operational and maintenance standpoint for the District.

It was agreed that the Water District will wait to hear from T-Mobile. At that time, a decision will be made on how to move forward with the lease.

IV. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce

- NH DES Trust Fund – tank painting, authorization

Motion by Ralph Hickson to authorize Wright-Pierce to submit an application to the NH DES Drinking Water Trust Fund for the Washington Road tank painting project.

Seconded by Scott Marion. Vote: 3-0 all in favor.

- Brown Property - source investigation

Mr. Berg explained that the Wright-Pierce agreement covers the application preparation for NRCS and putting the information before the Rye Conservation Commission before submittal. The agreement also covers wetland and vernal pool delineation on the Brown property. The wetland investigation will begin over the next couple of months. The vernal pool investigation will be done in the spring.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the agreement with Wright-Pierce for the wetland and vernal pool delineation on the Brown property, along with the preparation of the application to NRCS, for an estimated total of \$10,000. Seconded by Scott Marion.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor.

- Soil characterization for tank on Washington Road

Mr. Berg noted that the soil characterization is proposed for one of the Washington Road water tanks. This is being done to investigate for lead and other chemicals because of the age of the tank that is located at the front of the property. There may be a need to investigate the back tank if the data shows that there may have been migration through the soil into that area. This is being done in preparation for the paint removal for the upcoming tank painting project.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the agreement with Wright-Pierce in the amount of \$10,000 for chemical analysis of the soil around the Washington Road tanks. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. Vote: 3-0 all in favor.

- **Wright-Pierce projects update**

Mr. Berg gave an update to the Commissioners regarding ongoing RWD projects. The Garland Road pump house upgrade is essentially complete. Wright-Pierce is working on the final payment application and balancing change orders. By the end of 2022, the project should be wrapped up. The piping in the road at Garland pump house has to be switched over to a single point of entry.

Superintendent Jones noted that all the parts for that project are sitting in storage on site. It's been confirmed that the manganese ruling is going to be put off until July 2023. RWD will need to decide if they want to continue to move forward with the project. There are three road openings involved: in front of Bailey Cedar, in front of Garland well, and the hydrant for the sample tap and flushing. He suggested moving forward with at least the Garland driveway work. That would give the point of entry.

The Commissioners agreed to move forward on completing as much of the project as possible. It seems the most logical place to start is to replumb the Garland well to the 12" line.

Mr. Berg continued that the contractor for the Wallis Road project has completed some receiving pits for the directional drilling work. The drillers are scheduled to start work on October 10th. The intent is to get the directional drilling and a big piece of the installation done this fall. Referring to the asset management project, Mr. Berg noted that it's been put on pause for this month and will resume again in November once flushing for RWD has been completed. Wright-Pierce will be scheduling a public input meeting for some time in November or December. Mr. Berg noted that he will start work on the design for the Sagamore Road pump station. He will also be working on the engineering budget for 2023 to submit to the Commission for consideration.

V. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for September

Superintendent Arik Jones presented his monthly report for September, along with the pumping and data reports.

- Referring to the pumping data, he noted that the year-to-date totals for 2022 mimic the trends seen in 2018, as far as continuing to rise and then falling in September. In 2020 and 2021, there were some rain events in mid-July and early August which caused the pumping totals to drop the July usage, unlike this year. RWD has already pumped more than what was pumped over the past five years.
- The fall flushing will be starting towards the end of October.
- Operator Greg Vaillancourt has completed his backflow test class and has passed the written exam. It appears he has also passed the hands-on testing and should be receiving his backflow certificate within the next month.
- Superintendent Jones and Operator Vaillancourt have both completed best management practices training, which covers bmp's on commercial sites within the Wellhead Protection Area.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the Superintendent's report for the month of September. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

VI. Cash Flow Reports for September

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow and expenditure reports for the month of September. No issues or concerns were noted.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the cash flow report for September. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

VII. Treasurer's Report

The Commissioners reviewed the Treasurer's reports for the months of June and July.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Treasurer's reports for the months of June and July. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

There was some discussion about the recent sale of the District's Ford pick-up truck. The truck was purchased by Londonderry Ford as part of the purchase agreement of the District's new truck. A check was received by the District in the amount of \$17,000 for the truck. The purchase of the new truck was approved by the voters to be taken from the Equipment and Buildings Capital Reserve Fund, which was voted on at the District Meeting in 2021. At this time, there is a total of \$78,000 in the capital reserve fund; however, a withdrawal of \$60,000 for the new truck will be made by the end of the year. This will leave a balance of \$18,000 in reserve. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed that the \$17,000 should be returned to the Equipment and Buildings Capital Reserve Fund, as there may be a need for another vehicle for the District if another operator position is added.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to return the \$17,000 that was received from Londonderry Ford, for the purchase of the previous Ford truck, to the Equipment and Buildings Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Scott Marion. Vote: 3-0 all in favor.

VIII. Correspondence

None

IX. Old Business

a. PFAS Sampling Results Review

Chair Ditto noted that in looking through the results, they probably need to look at Garland well, as the numbers seem to be increasing. In looking at the August results, the numbers were up, as they were in 2020. August may be a month where numbers increase because water tends to be drawn down in that area. He pointed out that the Town doesn't really have a good sampling plan on the landfill to correlate with RWD's results. The Town's testing well is upgradient of the Garland well, which is only sampled once per year in April. The results that RWD has from the Town at this time are from 2021. He feels that someone from the Town is not managing the

landfill sampling and tracking. He's not sure they have a good idea of what's coming out of the landfill. However, it might all become a moot point soon anyway. If the standards get lowered too far, the numbers will be in exceedance.

The Commissioners reviewed the most recent PFAS sampling results.

X. New Business

a. October Calendar – budget & rate adjustment review sessions

Commissioners agreed to discuss the rate adjustment and 2023 budget at the next work session on October 19th.

b. Commissioner's Email Inbox

The Commissioners discussed how to clean out and organize the commissioner's email inbox, as there are quite a few old emails that may no longer be needed.

c. Water Restriction Enforcement for 2023

Chair Ditto noted that he has been trying to get before the Rules and Regulations Committee; however, there are no meetings posted for the near future. If RWD wants to get something before the Town about a building permit requirement for irrigation systems, they need to start at Rules and Regs. He pointed out that the Town shouldn't be opposed to this because the requirements they want to impose are the smart irrigation systems. They already require that of the developer in the Land Development Regulations. If someone in the development doesn't put irrigation in at the time of development but do it several years later, they still have to follow those rules. The Town has already implemented what RWD wants to do. There just needs to be a way to have people who are putting in individual systems outside the realm of developers to do the same. If the District can't submit a zoning amendment to the Rules and Regs Committee because they are not meeting, he's not sure how they can get past this. He pointed out that time is running out because there has to be a public hearing held on the proposed zoning amendments. The amendments then have to be brought into the Deliberative Session.

Chair Ditto agreed to send the proposed amendment to Planning Administrator Kim Reed. He will copy Selectman Winslow on the email.

XI. Other Business

None

Adjournment

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 11:26 a.m. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger