

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING
February 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Rye Public Library**

Commissioners In Attendance:

Art Ditto, Commission Chair
Ralph Hickson, Commissioner
Tom Clifford, Commissioner

Members of the Public:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
John Murtagh
Lori Ramsay

The Commissioners of the Rye Water District held a public hearing on the following warrant articles which will be presented to the voters at the District's annual meeting on March 28th;

- To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$315,000.00 (gross budget) for the Wallis Road Water Main Replacement, 1,165ft from the intersection of Wallis Road and Ocean Boulevard to the intersection of Wallis Road and Odiorne Drive, and all costs incidental thereto and connected therewith: and to authorize the issuance of not more than Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$315,000.00) of bonds and notes in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and to authorize the Rye Water District Commissioners to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and to authorize the Rye Water District Commissioners to expend the proceeds so raised to that stated purpose. A 2/3 ballot vote is required.

Chair Ditto called the public hearing to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He turned the hearing over to Chris Berg to explain the projects being proposed.

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, gave a presentation on the scope of the projects being proposed by the District. The Wallis Road main repair encompasses the area from Ocean Boulevard to Odiorne Drive, which is approximately 1150ft of water main. The main will be connected along Wallis Road with water extensions on Odiorne, Parkridge, Oceanview and Appledore. The reason for the project is to replace an 8" ductile iron main that was installed in the 70's, in an area where the soils are very corrosive. There have been several failures in this area with mains of the same material and vintage. The intent is to be proactive in managing the District's infrastructure, as repairing a main as it breaks is unpredictable and costly for the residents.

The water main will be replaced with Polyethylene plastic pipe. This is the same type of material that was recently used for a project on Ocean Boulevard. The water main will be installed by boring under the ground, as opposed to open excavation trench work, which will help minimize pavement disturbance and

environmental impacts through this area. If the warrant article is approved in March at the District's annual meeting, the project will be funded through the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund with a final application deadline of June 1st. The project will require surveying and design work to be completed this summer/fall. The project will go out to bid over the winter with construction anticipated to start in the spring for a completion prior to summer season in 2021. The District has been approved for a loan in the amount of \$315,000 through the Trust Fund. Some additional costs will be covered by the Water District with a total cost of \$375,000 for the project.

Chair Ditto opened to the public at 6:05 p.m. for questions or comments.

John Murtagh, 33 Pollock Drive, asked if the construction will include going under the creek.

Mr. Berg explained there will be directional drilling under the creek, under both of the culverts, and the laterals will be connected on either end.

Commissioner Clifford asked if the existing water main will remain in use until the pipe is drilled and installed.

Mr. Berg replied that is the intent. He pointed out that the duration of the use of temporary water can be minimized by the directional drilling technology.

Commissioner Hickson asked if the existing water main will be abandoned in place.

Mr. Berg confirmed.

Commissioner Hickson noted that there will be no disturbance to the road, which is a key point.

Mr. Murtagh asked the cost of the loan.

Chair Ditto stated that in looking at this particular project and using the interest rate and payment schedule for the Route 1A project as a comparison, this will result in a 20-year bond of about one and a half cents (1.5¢) on the tax rate. The interest rate for the Drinking Water Trust Fund is 2.96%. This loan is the same structure as the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan that was used for the Route 1A project.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Chair Ditto closed the public hearing for the Wallis Road main replacement bond at 6:10 p.m.

- To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$800,000.00 (gross budget) for the rehab of the Garland Road Pump Station and all costs incidental thereto and connected therewith: and to authorize the issuance of not more than Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00) of bonds and notes in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and to authorize the Rye Water District Commissioners to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and to authorize the Rye Water District Commissioners to expend the proceeds so raised to that stated purpose. A 2/3 ballot vote is required.

Mr. Berg continued his presentation to explain the project for the Garland Road pump house. The Garland Road pump station was constructed in 1976. Most of the electrical, process and building components are original. On a building like this that is critical to supporting the water needs of the Town of Rye, those things need to be replaced from time to time. This project is a matter of upgrading and replacing aging infrastructure. The electrical equipment is at end of life and the pump is declining in service. There is some site work that is required and energy/heating efficiencies need to be improved as well. It was noted that there is a pit below grade with confined space entry that has flooded. The flooding has been taken care of but that will continue to be an issue in the future if it is not fixed. Multiple electrical components have failed over the years. A lot of those original components are no longer manufactured, so getting parts for repairs has become a real issue.

Because this is a great source of water for the community, it is important to make sure this system is viable and is operating at its best capacity. The goal is to improve the overall operations of the facility, improve energy efficiencies and address any safety hazards that may be a concern. The proposed upgrades include the replacement of the electrical and implementation systems; replacement of pump and piping; improvement of doors and windows; site improvements; fencing and paving. All the improvements within the facility will be compliant with the potential future water treatment facility.

If the warrant article is approved at the March meeting, bids will be solicited for the construction. Construction submittals and the release of equipment will be done over the summer. The construction will begin in the fall so the facility can be back up and operational for the 2021 summer season. The project will be funded through an \$800,000 loan from the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund with another \$80,000 being covered by the District, for a total cost of \$880,000.

Chair Ditto opened to the public at 6:15 p.m.

Lori Ramsey, 209 Sagamore Road, asked if the District will be soliciting bids for the new hardware for the pumping.

Mr. Berg explained that the construction bids will include all the electrical components and instrumentation. It will all be bid out as one contract. Once the contract is awarded, the construction company will seek out those parts through manufacturers, as specified by the District, with final inspection and acceptance by the District before the components are installed.

Ms. Ramsey asked if a generator is needed as backup power for the system.

Mr. Berg noted that this facility already has a generator on site. It was recently purchased by the District and integrated into the operation of the facility.

Arik Jones, RWD Superintendent, pointed out that when the generator was installed, this proposed upgrade and change in voltage was taken into consideration.

Ms. Ramsey asked if there is going to be any disruption in service during this process.

Mr. Berg explained that Rye has three wells with two being online at any given time. The construction sequence that is laid out will minimize the amount of water going into the system. The District produces less water in the winter than it does in the summertime. The period that this facility will be down and

offline will be minimized. Construction will be sequenced so that a lot of the equipment can be installed without taking the old equipment offline.

Mr. Murtagh asked if all the upgrades will be compatible with a central water treatment plant, if that happens in the future.

Mr. Berg stated that the improvements that are being designed and implemented, would be the same as if the water treatment plant was being built right now. The improvements would still need to be done in order to pump the water to that treatment facility.

Ms. Ramsey asked what the life span of the upgrades of the facility will be.

Mr. Berg explained the process components generally need to be replaced on a ten-year cycle. The electrical system, which is the main component, is a twenty-year life cycle. There should be an assessment of the system on that basis to make sure it is still functional and efficient. With regards to the electrical and instrumentation components, he noted that technology moves past what is currently there and the manufacturers stop making the parts. The maintainability and liability of those systems get compromised just because parts are no longer available.

There was some discussion about previous work that was done at the site.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Ditto closed the public hearing for the Garland Road pump house at 6:25 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, **Tom Clifford made a motion to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger