

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.
December 1, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

Attendance:

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

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce

Others Present via Zoom:

Mike Garrepy, Tuck Realty
Joe Coronati, Jones & Beach Engineering
Eric Gardner, Benchmark Development

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Discussion with Mike Garrepy & Benchmark

Re: 30-unit development Route 1 and expansion of memory care facility

Mike Garrepy, Joe Coronati and Eric Gardner met with the Commissioners to discuss the plans for water services for the 30-unit development at the Hector's site and the Evolve facility expansion, both on Route 1.

RWD Superintendent Arik Jones explained that there are two options. One option is to run down the west side of Route 1 from RWD's existing main, which is north of Benchmark's entrance. That would consist of taking out the forty-five-degree bend, putting in a "Y" and running the pipes straight down to Aquarion's main. The other option is to directional drill across Route 1 at Dow Lane, connect to the existing stub out and connect into the existing Aquarion main across the street on the west side. He noted that Aquarion is not interested in individually selling water, as they do not have a franchise in that area. However, they would consider selling the main for it to be utilized for this project.

Mr. Garrepy stated that they are comfortable considering either approach.

Joe Coronati, Jones & Beach Engineering, shared an updated plan with the Commissioners showing the proposal for water service to the 30-unit development and the Benchmark property (a.k.a. Evolve).

Mr. Garrepy stated that he and Eric Gardner are agreeable to the purchase of the Aquarion line. He believes the price was set at \$25,000 to be paid to Aquarion. He thinks it would be good to have Severino look at the costs of the extension on the west side or the plan that Joe has shown to see the difference. If it's a wash, it may be easier to do the work on the west side versus crossing Route 1.

Superintendent Jones pointed out that going with the Dow Lane crossing will require a day or two of shutdown of traffic to drill across Route 1. There will definitely be issues of traffic details more so than running down the west side of the road. Also, there's an open space on the west side for operation. Probably the biggest issue with the west side is blocking the entrance to Evolve. Provisions will need to be provided to get cars in and out of the site during that time.

Mr. Garrepy commented that their issue with the west side is that the 30-unit development will probably start construction before Benchmark's expansion. That will interrupt their traffic flow, which will have to be coordinated for the work.

Mr. Gardner stated that in looking at the plan, it seems that they can maintain traffic flow to the building while installing the line. He pointed out that they need to maintain 24/7 access to the building for ambulances and emergency vehicles, which they will need to keep in mind in determining how it will be done. He continued that he and Mike are committed to assisting in the acquisition of the Aquarion line, assuming the cost is in line with what was discussed. They are happy to do the connection work as well, provided they can choose a method that is cost effective and in line with what has been discussed to date.

Superintendent Jones noted that he will be meeting with Severino at the site to review the main locations and review the area for the project.

Mike Garrepy agreed to meet them at the site with copies of the updated plans.

Referring to the purchase of the Aquarion water main and how it transitions, Superintendent Jones explained that there has to be an agreement between Aquarion and Rye Water District. In normal applications, a developer burdens the cost of the pipe and it's installed. At the time of activation, a connection fee is paid to the Water District, the water is turned on and the piping is eased over to the Water District. The unique piece of this project is that the pipe is already in the ground, but there's really no difference. He noted that he will follow up with Carl McMorran from Aquarion Water to see how he would like to proceed.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- November 3, 2021

**Motion by Tom Clifford to accept the minutes of November 3, 2021 as amended.
Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.**

IV. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce

Project update – Asset Management Grant Funds
2022 Engineering Budget Proposal

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce, spoke to the Commission in regards to current Water District projects. The proposed Garland well shutdown for pump installation, electrical connections and pipe work is scheduled to start on December 6th and be completed by December 16th. The time period is based on the availability of pump installers, pipe installers and primary electrical connections. The project is set to reach substantial completion the beginning of February. The outside work will begin in the spring.

There has been no word from Jamco regarding the estimated costs for the Wallis main replacement project. The Commission may need to consider whether they want to rebid the project. A warrant article with the new project cost will be need to be presented to the voters at the annual meeting. The new warrant article will supersede the article that was passed by the voters at the annual meeting on July 11, 2020. A revised application will also need to be submitted to NH DES Drinking Water Trust Fund.

Grants are available for asset management, strategic planning, water audits and energy efficiency. The asset management grant is a \$100,000/no match proposition. The grant will cover purchase and implementation costs, costs for updates to GIS and asset management planning. There's plenty of benefit the District can realize by going through the asset management grant effort. A water rate study would also be eligible through the Asset Management Grant; as well as, Strategic Planning. The strategic planning grant and water audit grant are both \$20,000 grants with no match. Applications for the grants are due the beginning of January. Mr. Berg will flush out a list of possible projects for the grant applications.

The Water District projects submitted for ARPA Funds didn't make the funded list. The treatment plant was two or three down from the funded list. There's a potential that ARPA money might come back into play for the treatment plant, if projects that made funding drop off. A Drinking Water Trust Fund application has also been submitted for that project. Now that the District knows they did not get ARPA funding, the application can be revised, which is due the end of the week. Mr. Berg is submitting an application for a 70% percent loan with a 30% grant to move the treatment facility project forward. The District should have a decision from the Trust Fund in January.

There was discussion about revisiting the treatment plant project and updating the design in order to meet the new water quality testing requirements, which are intended to start in July 2022.

V. Superintendent’s Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for November

Superintendent Jones presented the monthly report, along with the pumping and data reports, for the month of November.

- A notice will be posted on the District’s website, along with the Town’s website, concerning the Garland well shutdown from December 6th to the 16th. The electronic sign will also be utilized and located in front of the Public Safety Building. Residents will be encouraged to conserve water during the shutdown.
- Winterization of the hydrants has been completed.
- Water usage is down from last year; however, it’s within the average for this time of year.
- Fourth quarter water readings will be taking place the third week of December for the end of year billing.

Motion by Tom Clifford to accept the superintendent’s report for the month of November. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

VI. Cash Flow Reports

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

Motion by Tom Clifford to accept the cash flow reports for the month of November. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

VII. Treasurer’s Reports

Not Available

VIII. Correspondence

- **Abutter’s Notice** – Major Site Development Plan by WBTSCC

IX. Old Business

a. Route 1 Connections

Addressed at beginning of meeting.

X. New Business

a. 2021 Encumbered Funds

- **Utility Work Truck**

Superintendent Jones requested to encumber the funds for the purchase of the new utility work truck in the amount of \$75,000., which is on order but has not yet been delivered.

Motion by Tom Clifford to encumber the amount of \$75,000 for the purchase of the utility work truck. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

b. HealthTrust Return of Surplus Premiums

A return of surplus premiums was received from HealthTrust for the District's employee medical coverage benefits. The surplus is based on the number of claims within the District's group during the period of August 2020 to August 2021. Business Manager Dyana Ledger made a request to disburse the appropriate surplus payments to qualifying employees.

Motion by Art Ditto to accept the return of surplus premiums from HealthTrust in the amount of \$8,942.40 and to disburse the appropriate amount to employees and retirees who qualify for a return. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.

XI. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

There were no issues or concerns noted.

The projects on Route 1 for the 30-unit development and Benchmark were addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

XII. Other Business

a. 2022 Budget Workshop

Budget to be addressed at the Commissioner's work session on December 15th.

Tom Clifford made a motion to give the Water District employees a \$500 holiday bonus. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by Tom Clifford to adjourn at 12:10 p.m. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger