

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Meeting held via ZOOM
May 5, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

Attendance:

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

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
Darren Prince, Asst. Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce
Selectman Phil Winslow
Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

I. Call to Order

Chair Clifford called the meeting to order via Zoom video conferencing at 9:15 a.m.

Statement by Tom Clifford:

As chair of the Rye Water District Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor’s Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.com
ID #878 9735 1099 Password: 03870

Public notice has been provided to the public for the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom telephonically. Instructions have also

been provided on the website of the commission at: ryewaterdistrict.com go to the Meetings/Agenda page and click on the agenda for this meeting.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Roll call attendance of commissioners:

1. Tom Clifford
2. Ralph Hickson
3. Art Ditto

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- April 7th

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 2, middle paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: **The new well is permitted for about 150 gallons per minute.**

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of April 7, 2021 as amended. Seconded by Art Ditto.

Roll Call: Art Ditto – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford – Yes

Motion passed

III. Update from Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce, gave an update to the Commissioners on projects for the District. In regards to the Garland pumphouse update, Wright-Pierce has been working through submittals to start the construction. Severino, Apex's sub-contractor, should be on site within the next two weeks to start the site work. The majority of the inside work will be starting in the fall. Wright-Pierce is working on wrapping up final plans for the Wallis Road main replacement. The plans will be available for the Commissioner's and State's review within the week. The intent is to get the project out to bid within the next month with the start of construction after Labor Day.

Mr. Berg continued that the Risk and Resiliency draft report is being completed this week and will be available for the Commissioner's review. He noted that the Cedar Run well replacement is not really moving forward at this time, until some of the considerations are worked through with abutting property owners. He pointed out that they can move forward with the water investigation work for the Rand property. Additional clarity from the Conservation Commission will be needed before moving forward.

There was discussion about putting together a preliminary application for a SRF Loan for future projects. The applications are due on June 1st and will become the list that SRF uses for stimulus money, should funds become available.

IV. Discussion with Town Administrator Bergeron and Selectman Winslow Water restrictions for drought conditions

Town Administrator Becky Bergeron and Selectman Phil Winslow met with the Commissioners to discuss being proactive about putting a plan into place for water restrictions if drought conditions exist this summer.

Superintendent Arik Jones noted that he has had discussion with Becky Bergeron about limiting irrigation to every other day, perhaps using an odd/even house number method.

Chair Clifford asked if restrictions would apply to private wells, as well as Aquarion Water.

Superintendent Jones explained that NH DES Water Conservationist Stacey Herbold sent a memo stating that if the town has imposed restrictions based on a State drought condition, they do have control over a private utility like Aquarion.

Selectman Winslow commented there are five stages of drought conditions with the first one being abnormally dry. He asked at what stage they are proposing restrictions. He also asked what alternatives might be available for providing additional water, so restrictions don't have to be put into place.

Superintendent Jones stated once it hits severe drought conditions, the State recommends that the utility impose restrictions. Once the State has certified that drought conditions exist, it gives the authoritative bodies in the town the right to impose those restrictions.

Chair Clifford noted that they will have to verify with the State when the Town can implement restrictions.

In regards to enforcement, Selectman Winslow commented that they should involve Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy and Police Chief Kevin Walsh in this discussion, as they would probably be part of the enforcement action. He agrees there should be a plan in place as to when they would impose the restriction and who would enforce it, so the town will be ready when the time comes.

Commissioner Ditto noted that RSA 41:11-D allows local governing bodies to establish regulations and restrictions for public water systems, which would go into place once the State declares drought conditions.

Superintended Jones agreed to contact the State to verify the implementation of restrictions.

Selectman Winslow commented it might be appropriate to do something proactive, as it will take some time to educate the residents and irrigation season is approaching. He suggested discussing the odd/even watering days at the Select Board meeting to see if this is something that should be imposed now.

There was some discussion on ways to get the word out to residents; such as, using post cards and message boards.

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

Superintendent Jones reviewed his monthly report, along with the data report and bacteria test results for April.

- Water usage is continuing to increase due to drought conditions and demand. The usage from last April has increased approximately 12%.
- Flushing for the system has been completed. There was a limited amount of sedimentation with having Cedar Run offline. Portsmouth water is yet to be flushed and will probably be done next week.
- The assistant superintendent is continuing his efforts to control high water usage due to leakage and potential service line leaks. He is doing this by reviewing the monthly reading reports and contacting the customers with abnormally high use. This past month, there were 40 customers identified with high usage. Some of them were explainable, but a majority were due to leaky commodes.
- NH DES has informed the District that the leak detection surveys has been postponed until 2022. The District has the ability to do sound level monitoring in the system to help track possible leaks. This will be one of the focuses over the next couple of months, as this will be the second year in a row without a survey being done.

There was some discussion in regards to the new development that is proposed for Route 1 and the demand it will have on the district's water system.

Motion by Art Ditto to accept the Superintendent's report for the month of April.

Seconded by Ralph Hickson.

Roll Call: Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford – Yes; Art Ditto – Yes

VI. Cash Flow Reports

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow and first quarter billing reports for the month of April. There were no areas of concerns noted.

Motion by Art Ditto to accept the cash flow reports for the month of April.

Seconded by Ralph Hickson.

Roll Call: Tom Clifford – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Art Ditto – Yes

VII. Treasurer's Reports

The Commissioners reviewed the Treasurer's reports for the months of January, February and March. There were no concerns.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of January.

Seconded by Art Ditto.

Roll Call: Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford – Yes; Art Ditto – Yes

Motion by Art Ditto to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of February.

Seconded by Ralph Hickson.

Roll Call: Tom Clifford – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Art Ditto – Yes

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of March.

Seconded by Art Ditto.

Roll Call: Tom Clifford – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Art Ditto – Yes

VIII. Correspondence

- **CMA Testing**

The results tables for the Grove Road and Route 1 landfill sites were emailed to the District. A copy of the actual report has not yet been received.

- An email was received from Rye Planning Administrator Kim Reed regarding the Federal Water Infrastructure Package.

IX. Old Business

a. Appraisal Quote

The Commissioners agreed to ask Attorney Quinn to review the materials for the project and give his legal opinion. An exact quote has not yet been received from the appraiser.

b. Posting of Warrant for Annual Meeting

The Commissioners agreed to post the warrant for the May 22nd Annual Meeting after the meeting. Commissioners will meet at the Water District office at 1:00 p.m.

X. New Business

- **Handicap Office Access**

It was agreed to look into how handicap access can be achieved for the Water District's office on Sagamore Road. Superintendent Jones will follow up with some contractors to see how this can be done.

XI. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

There were no issues or concerns in the Planning and Zoning meeting minutes.

XII. Other Business

- Water District Annual Meeting will be held on May 22nd, 10:00 a.m. at Rye Junior High. The meeting will be held outside under a tent with social distancing and mask protocols being followed.

Adjournment

Motion by Art Ditto to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. Seconded by Ralph Hickson.

Roll Call: Art Ditto – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger