

RYE WATER DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING
August 7, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

Attendance:

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

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Edward Paul, Resident

I. Call to Order

Chair Ditto called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Discussion with Resident Ned Paul

Edward Paul, 411 Sagamore Road, spoke with the commissioners regarding the annual water rate at his property located at 411 Sagamore Road. He explained that the property has six units and the usage this past year was only 51,000 gallons, as the apartments are small units with minimal residents. He feels he is paying for 300,000 gallons, as each unit is charged like a full house. His concern is that the total house is only using 51,000 gallons and he is being charge over six hundred dollars; six times the normal Rye Water District rate.

Chair Ditto explained that before the water rates were increased, it was determined that the rates were not in line with the tax side of the equation for revenue. The Water District proceeded to have a water study completed. Part of that study included the cost of actually providing the water to the customer, whether they used any water or not. That cost is represented in the annual fee and includes a portion of water that is necessary for subsistence. He pointed out that all properties with multiple units, including seasonal units, are treated the same.

The commissioners spoke with Mr. Paul regarding his concerns.

Chair Ditto summarized that the district feels they are treating all customers fairly and would not be able to come up with an exception for one property.

Commissioner Hickson noted that if the district made an exception for one property, it would set a precedent and every other multi-unit property would ask for the same.

Chair Ditto noted that the Water District Commissioners work for the residents in the water district. If the residents, "owners", of the system feel it should be a different way and they come up with a proposal that is passed at annual meeting, that is what will be done. The commissioners are not in the position to give the customers what they are going to get. They are working to give the customers what they desire to have in regards to providing water. He does not want Mr. Paul to feel he is being "shut off" by the

commissioners. There is an avenue to present changes through a resident petition in conjunction with the annual meeting process. A resident of the district does have the power to ask for something to be done.

The commissioners thanked Mr. Paul for expressing his concerns.

III. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for July.

Superintendent Arik Jones gave an update to the commissioners for the month of July.

- The pumping totals were down in July from 2018. The data shows that the pumping totals for 2019 are substantially much lower in comparison to the past four years.
- New hydrant installation has been completed. Seven hydrants have been installed, instead of the original five planned. The project for the hydrants has come in under budget. BCK Excavation saved the district a lot of money with their efficiency and pricing so the anticipated excavation costs came in well under budget.
- The crew is still working on installing radios into the meter pits.
- A Level 2 assessment was done because of the coliform hits on Parson's Road. The samples are currently being processed at the State. August samples are being performed before the end of the week. Superintendent Jones noted that prior to this work he pulled samples off Parson's Road and the samples were clean. The second sample was positive, which tells him it is not in the water. He has to be something in the environment but nothing was done different in the water collection. This has been the only Level 2 coliform hit this year.
- Wright-Pierce has been working on updating the GIS and that work will continue. They are also still working on the Cedar Run issues.

There was discussion about a possible bond to address the upgrade of the Garland well pumphouse. The commissioners reviewed the superintendent's report.

Motion by Tom Clifford to accept the superintendent's report for July. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

IV. Review minutes – July 3rd meeting

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of July 3, 2019 as presented. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.

V. Discussion and Update – Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce
Chris Berg was not available for the meeting but an update was emailed to the commissioners for review.

VI. Treasurer's Report
Not available

VII. Cash Flow Reports – July

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports for the month of July. There were no areas of concern noted.

Motion by Tom Clifford to accept the cash flow reports for July. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

There was some discussion on the need for a meter replacement plan (asset management plan). There was also discussion on obtaining the conservation plan to review the requirements of the district for annual reporting.

VIII. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

There were no areas of concern noted in the planning or zoning minutes for the month of July. It was noted that the project for the Goss property has been started. The project at 1244 Washington Road, Falzone, was postponed to the September Planning Board meeting. The project at 1215 Ocean Blvd, Samonas, has also been postponed. No further information is known at this time.

IX. Old Business:

- **Attorney Scott – Easement of driveway**

Chair Ditto read a letter from Attorney Scott addressing his research in regards to the property in which the water district's office is located. The property was conveyed to the district by the Cavarettas in 1963, which did not include any right-of-way. In 1982, there was a deed from the Cavarettas to the district to include land that was part of the 1963 deed, along with a right-of-way adjacent to the property, which is immediately south of the land owned by the district. As part of consideration for the conveyance, the district agreed to pave the right-of-way and install a 10" water main at the easterly end of the right-of-way. According to the tax map, the right-of-way appears to be 40' in width; however, the 1982 deed does not provide any information on the length of the right-of-way.

Attorney Scott was asked to research the deeds for more information on the right-of-way and the parcel of land used by the water district office. After reviewing Attorney Scott's letter, the Commissioners agreed there are no conflicts with the right-of-way at this time so it should be left as it is. They also agreed the repair and paving of the driveway should move forward.

- **Standalone Water Irrigation Policy**

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed Standalone Water Irrigation Policy drafted by Chair Ditto.

Motion by Tom Clifford to adopt the Standalone Water Irrigation Policy. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

X. New Business:
None

XI. Other Business:

- **Town Newsletter Article due August 19th**

Adjournment

Motion by Tom Clifford to adjourn at 10:34 p.m. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger