



**RYE WATER
DISTRICT**

**COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Road**

Commissioners Present: *Chair Scott Marion, Rosalie Lopresto, and Tom Mack* (remote)

Others Present: *District Administrator Brian Goetz, Superintendent Arik Jones, Business Manager Dyana Ledger, Underwood Engineer Senior Project Manager Peter Pitsas, Rye Energy Committee Members Howard Kalet and Tom Pfau*

1. Call to Order

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

2. Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the minutes of January 16, 2026, as presented. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

3. Discuss Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) potential as part of the Central Treatment project with Rye Energy Committee representatives (invited)

Rye Energy Committee Co-Chairs, Howard Kalet and Tom Pfau were present at the meeting to discuss the idea of solar energy as part of the central treatment project with the possibility of taking advantage of Solar Investment Tax Credits, which will be available until July 4, 2026. Discussion ensued between the commission, the District's treatment design engineer and the energy committee representatives. The District is interested in having solar included in the project but are not sure that the requirements and short timeline fit into the treatment timeline. Peter Pitsas said that they have some experience with solar being included in other projects they have managed and he will direct his design staff to review options and provide an assessment for an upcoming meeting.

4. Vote on rate changes as presented at the January 29, 2026, public hearing

The Commission discussed the public comments that were made at the public hearing on January 29th. Administrator Goetz presented the schedules for rates and fees, which were both presented at the public hearing.

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the Rye Water District Rate Schedule as presented at the January 29, 2026 Public Hearing to go into effect February 4, 2026. Seconded by Tom Mack.

**Roll Call: Tom Mack – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Scott Marion – Aye
Motion passed.**

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to adopt the Rye Water District Fee Schedule as presented at the January 29, 2026 Public Hearing, effective February 4, 2026. Seconded by Tom Mack.

**Roll Call: Tom Mack – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Scott Marion – Aye
Motion passed.**

5. Vote on Bylaw changes for water restrictions and billing changes as presented at the January 29, 2026, public hearing

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to amend the Rye Water District Bylaws to shift from annual to quarterly billing, as presented. Seconded by Tom Mack.

**Roll Call: Tom Mack – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Scott Marion – Aye
Motion passed.**

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to amend the Rye Water District Bylaws to implement a system of fines and penalties for violating published water restrictions. Seconded by Tom Mack.

**Roll Call: Tom Mack – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Scott Marion – Aye
Motion passed.**

6. Fueling station warrant article

Chair Marion gave an update on the DPW fueling station petitioned warrant article that was addressed at the Town's Deliberative Session on January 31st. The article was changed at the Deliberative Session to be a study to look at whether a fueling station for the town's vehicles should be located in town and where. The amended article asks for \$100,000 to cover the cost of the study, which is due by November 1, 2026, to be addressed on the 2027 warrant.

7. Administrator Update

a. **Weather, precipitation and water supply status**

Despite the recent snow events, overall precipitation continues to be below normal. Wells and system demand are tracking close to historical levels.

b. **Project updates**

i. **Central Treatment Design**

Design continues. Additional benchtop testing is being performed by Blueleaf. Site layouts have been discussed. An update will be presented at the district's annual meeting.

ii. **Garland Backup Well**

Drilling at the potential backup well location is complete. Awaiting a memo from our consultant as to next steps for the project.

iii. **Cedar Run Well**

Discussions between the district staff, our engineering consultant and the well installer determined that the current plan is to reinstall the sleeve piping and the well pump in the spring. Once installed, the well will be pumped at a reduced rate and sampled for water quality parameters to see if any improvement is achieved.

iv. **West Road Test Well**

Three observation wells have been installed adjacent to the test well. These wells will be utilized to track water levels and water quality during the required extended pumping test that will take place as part of the well permitting process. Wright-Pierce is finalizing the permit submittal, which is expected to occur in early spring 2026.

c. **Aquarion Interconnection request**

There is a bridge project coming up in North Hampton along the Lafayette Road corridor which may affect water customers on the Aquarion system north of the bridge. Therefore, Aquarion has approached the district about revisiting the potential for establishing an emergency interconnection on Lafayette Road. The commissioners directed Administrator Goetz to proceed with that discussion and continue to provide updates about its progress.

d. **Portsmouth Interconnection at Sagamore office**

Superintendent Jones updated the commission about the new pumps and electrical equipment installed at the Sagamore District office that will update the ability for the district to pump water from Portsmouth's system into Rye's. Administrator Goetz stated that this is probably a good opportunity to also revisit Rye and Portsmouth's interconnection agreement. The commissioners agreed.

8. Superintendent's Update

- a. Operations**
- b. Projects**
- c. NHDES letter regarding Nitrate sampling**

NHDES sent the district a notice that our 4th quarter sampling did not include a nitrate sample for the Cedar Run Well. According to staff this was simply an error during the sample event and the nitrate bottle was inadvertently left out when it went to the laboratory. A follow-up sample was taken immediately upon notification, and the results were non-detect. A letter has been prepared and will be mailed to each district customer.

9. Other Business

- Business Manager Dyana Ledger noted that the District's 2025 audit will start the week of February 9th. The auditors from Plodzik & Sanderson will be doing on site work during that week. The auditors visited the well site at the end of December to review inventory with no concerns reported.
- The Town Newsletter article is due February 10th. Administrator Goetz agreed to work on a draft.

10. Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel

At 10:40 a.m., Rosalie Lopresto moved to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel. Seconded by Tom Mack.

Roll Call: Tom Mack – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Scott Marion – Aye

The Commission came out of non-public session at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Tom Mack to adjourn at 11:01 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Upcoming Meetings:

- February 25th, 8:30 a.m.
- March 3rd, 8:30 a.m.
- March 25th, 8:30 a.m.
- March 28th, 9:00 a.m. (Annual Meeting at Rye Junior High)