

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. Business:

- a. PUBLIC HEARING – STRATEGIC PLANNING GRANT** – The purpose of the hearing is to consider acceptance and expenditure of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in funds from NH DES for a Strategic Planning Grant for the preliminary design of a high-pressured interconnection water main to increase resiliency and redundancy for the Rye Water District water system.

At 9:04 a.m., Chair Hickson opened the public hearing.

Hearing no comments, as there were no members from the public, Chair Hickson closed the public hearing at 9:05 a.m.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept and expend the fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Strategic Planning Grant for the preliminary design of a high-pressured interconnection water main to increase resiliency and redundancy for the Rye Water District water system. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Vote: 3-0 All in favor

- b. PUBLIC HEARING – STRATEGIC PLANNING GRANT** – The purpose of the hearing is to consider acceptance and expenditure of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in funds from NH DES for a Strategic Planning Grant to develop a preliminary design for a new water treatment facility.

At 9:06 a.m., Chair Hickson opened the public hearing.

Hearing no comments, as there were no members from the public, Chair Hickson closed the public hearing at 9:07 a.m.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept and expend the fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Strategic Planning Grant to develop a preliminary design for a new water treatment facility. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Vote: 3-0 All in favor

c. Substance Abuse Policy for Employees

The Commissioners received the policy drafted by Attorney Josh Scott and reviewed some of their comments made to the document. It was agreed to send the comments back to Attorney Scott and have him respond to the Commissioners' comments.

d. Municipal Resources, Inc. Agreement for Administrative Services

Motion by Scott Marion to enter into an agreement for three months services with Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) for 2024 and to authorize the chair to sign. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Vote: 3-0 All in favor

III. Budget Work Session

a. 2024 proposed budget

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed budget for 2024. They also reviewed anticipated engineering expenses for next year's projects.

b. Encumbrances

- Source Investigation: Wright-Pierce - \$51,198 (from 2022 encumbered funds)
- Bailey & Cedar Well: Ewing Electrical - \$125,850

Motion by Scott Marion to encumber \$51,198 from 2022 encumbered funds for the source investigation capital project. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Vote: 3-0 All in favor

Motion by Scott Marion to encumber \$125,850 for work associated with the Bailey and Cedar Well project. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Vote: 3-0 All in favor

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
&
RYE SELECT BOARD
JOINT MEETING
Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Rye Town Hall**

RWD Commissioners Present: *Chair Ralph Hickson, Vice-Chair Scott Marion, and Commissioner Rosalie Lopresto*

Select Board Present: *Chair Tom King, Vice-Chair Bill Epperson, and Selectman Bob McGrath*

Others Present: *Town Counsel Eric Maher, RWD Counsel Keriann Roman, and Town Administrator Matt Scruton*

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chair King called the Select Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RWD Chair Hickson called the Rye Water District meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. Discussion on Water Treatment Plant

The Rye Water District Commissioners met with the Select Board to discuss the future plans for a water treatment plant for the District to treat iron, manganese, and PFAS. Construction of the treatment plant is estimated to be up to sixteen million, with additional ongoing yearly operational costs. The long-term goal of RWD is to seek cooperation and support from the Town with regard to constructing a water treatment facility, along with ongoing yearly operational costs. It was noted by RWD that the Grove Road Landfill is within the wellhead protection area. CMA Engineering has found that groundwater has been picking up PFAS in some of the monitoring wells and it's trending towards the Garland well. As a short-term goal, the Rye Water District is asking the Select Board for a nonbinding memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining the plans and the potential involvement of the Town, in order for all parties to be clear on how this process will move forward.

It was noted by RWD Attorney Roman that Rye Water District is going to have to treat for PFAS. Currently, RWD is compliant. However, EPA is going to be adopting maximum contaminant levels of 4 parts per trillion (ppt), which is expected to happen in early 2024. If that level is adopted, RWD does not meet that level, so treatment would be necessary. At this time, there is a state revolving loan that is available to RWD for eleven million dollars with two million in loan

forgiveness. There is also a trust fund loan of approximately five million that is available to the District for construction of the central treatment plant, as well. Moving forward, RWD's engineering firm, Wright-Pierce, will be preparing a scope of work and estimate for hard costs for the water treatment facility, which will address iron and manganese removal, chlorination, and PFAS. RWD will be paying for that engineering work to be completed and will share the plan with the Select Board. At that time, the intent would be to enter into a solid agreement with the Select Board with regard to what the Town is willing to contribute towards the treatment facility. The project will need to be approved by the voters through a warrant article. The goal is to put the project out to bid for construction starting in 2025 with the facility being fully operational by 2027.

Attorney Eric Maher spoke about national funding that has been proposed by the EPA in the amount of twelve billion dollars to help soften the cost burden to towns throughout the country in meeting the new regulation. He also noted that the State has established a variety of loans and grant vehicles, some of which are going to be funded by the money that the State is going to get from the lawsuit against 3M.

It was agreed by all parties that RWD will seek out any funding support and grant opportunities that may be available for the treatment facility.

There was a lengthy discussion between the Select Board and RWD Commissioners about the District's request to enter into an MOU addressing the possibility of Town support for the water treatment plant.

Attorney Maher commented about the regulatory process and civil liability. Being a potentially responsible party does not mean that party has incurred liability. It means that there's a responsibility to the regulators to do what DES instructs towards a particular contamination issue. If the Town is ordered by DES to take a certain course of action, the Town will follow the law as it relates to the orders by DES. The liability is a separate and distinct matter. The standard is whether the Town did not comport with the generally prevailing state of the art technology and scientific knowledge at the time of the release. Was there something unreasonable about how the Town operated the dump in the 1970's or 1950's when it was in operation, based upon the information that was available at that time?

Attorney Maher noted that with the Select Board agreeing to meet, they are not committing to any specific amount of money or specific type of support. The Town is meeting with the Water District to have a dialogue to figure out what the cost is going to be.

Attorney Roman commented that there can certainly be an agreement. It would not be admitting liability. The agreement would be looking for the Select Board to agree to support and put forward a warrant article to the voters in the future.

After a lengthy discussion, the Select Board agreed that the request for a nonbinding MOU is reasonable. They asked the Town Administrator and Attorney Maher to work with Attorney Roman to come up with a draft agreement that the Select Board can review and consider at a future meeting.

Chair King opened to the public for comments.

Linda Davis, Liberty Common, asked if the water is safe for brushing teeth and drinking.

RWD Commissioner Ralph Hickson noted that Rye Water meets all current EPA and DES regulatory standards for drinking water.

Ritchie White, 30 Lang Road, asked if private wells will also be considered by the Town throughout the process of finding funding.

RWD Commissioner Lopresto spoke about the financial assistance that the State is offering to property owners with regard to private well contamination.

Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road, suggested that Town Counsel look at the history of the Grove Road dump, where the Town went to the State and said the dump didn't have to be capped and could be monitored. The Town chose not to take action and monitor.

Robert Atwater, 805 Ocean Blvd, expressed concerns about conflicting statements amongst board and commission members. He also asked if desalination has been considered.

Joe Martilla, 96 Alehson Street, spoke in support of desalination.

Mindi Messmer, 291 Washington Road, spoke in support of Commissioner Lopresto's comments. She also spoke in support of the Town addressing PFOA around the Garland well and also for private wells in town. She encouraged the Town to take responsibility ahead of what is happening on a national scale, in order to be first in line for any potential funding.

Hearing no further comments, Chair King closed to the public and discussion between the RWD Commissioners and Select Board ended.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to close the Rye Water District meeting at 10:03 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted
Dyana F Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion (via Zoom)
Rosalie Lopresto

Others Present:

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- November 1st

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2023. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright – Pierce – Project Updates

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce, met with the Commissioners to give an update on ongoing projects for the District. He noted that the Lead and Copper Ruling was issued last week. All lead service lines need to be removed within ten years. For the Water District, it doesn't change too much. There will be more information coming from the State. If the State sets in place anything stricter than the national rule, he will get this information to the Commissioners. He continued that the final rule for PFAS is still expected sometime in early 2024.

Mr. Berg noted that the funding application for the SRF loan for the water treatment facility has been approved. The Drinking Water Trust Fund loan request has also been approved. The District now has sixteen million dollars worth of loan funding with some principal forgiveness. The next step would be for the District to prepare a warrant article to be presented at the annual

meeting. Once the warrant articles are passed by the voters, the rest of the application information can be prepared for final submission for those loans, which are due May 1, 2024.

The intent is to move forward with testing at the Brown Farm Lane in February. The District is still waiting for approval from Southeast Land Trust. Wright-Pierce is working on developing site plans for erosion and sediment control. The plan will be submitted to SELT, as part of the approval process. Mr. Berg noted that the Wallis Road watermain replacement project is complete. Final documents are being prepared for State reporting in order to close the loan. He has spoken with a representative from Novis about the Washington Road tank painting project. They've pushed soil characterization to the State. Once information is received back, Mr. Berg will get that information to the Commission.

IV. Cash Flow Reports for November

Business Manager Dyana Ledger presented cash flow reports from the month of November. It was noted that the SRF loan payment to the State was paid, as it was due on the first. Checks have been cut and will be sent to the capital reserve accounts, which are amounts passed by voters at the annual meeting. The District is still waiting on the second tax payment from the Town, which is anticipated to be received within the next week.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the cash flow reports for the month of November. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

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

Superintendent Arik Jones presented his monthly reports, pumping charts, and bacteria tests for the month of November.

- Water usage is down quite a bit from this time last year.
- Hydrant winterization is completed with just a few more than need to be inspected for leaks.
- Lead and copper sampling has been ongoing with just over forty samples being collected and submitted.
- RWD is now operating on the new contact time; Bailey and Garland are operating together and the dose is 6 ppm.
- Backflow tests have started and will be completed by the end of the month.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the superintendent's report for November. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

a. Letter to Attorney Maher from Keriann Roman

Receipt of a copy of the letter to Attorney Maher was noted by the Commissioners. No further information on a meeting date with the Select Board is available at this time.

VII. Old Business

b. Administrator List of Duties for Municipal Resources, Inc.

Business Manager Ledger submitted a draft to the Commissioners listing job duties for the proposed administrator position. The Commissioners have reviewed the list and may be adding or modifying some of the items listed.

Commissioner Lopresto spoke to the other commissioners about delineating the qualifications for the position based on what would best serve the District. It was noted by Chair Hickson that the District will get to that point once the person from MRI comes in and observes operations of RWD. It was also noted that MRI is going to take the list of duties and draft a job description.

It was agreed to forward the list to Alan Gould at MRI.

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

X. Other Business

a. Release of escrow to Benchmark

Business Manager Ledger requested an approval to release the escrow to Benchmark that RWD is holding for the purchase of the Aquarion watermain along Route 1, which was part of the project planning. Since approval of the project, it has been determined that the watermain will not be purchased from Aquarion and will not be part of the development moving forward. At this time, Benchmark has not started construction and it's unsure of when that will happen.

Motion by Scott Marion to release the Benchmark Escrow in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

b. 2024 Budget Work Session

o Wage and Salaried Positions

The Commission reviewed the proposed budget for the 2024 wages and salaries. The proposed budget includes changing the business manager and superintendent to salaried positions.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to make the Business Manager and Superintendent salaried positions. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Vote: 2-0 (S. Marion not available for vote)

- **On-Call Wages**

There was discussion about the proposal to add on-call wages to the budget for the water operators who take weekly on-call shifts for after hour service calls and emergency situations. The proposal is to pay \$100 weekly to be on-call with overtime wages being paid for any callout situations. This will be an additional \$5,200 added to the budget under wages with a slight increase in the FICA/Medi line item. It was agreed to start the on-call wages for the next payroll.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve a \$100 stipend for on-call wages for water operator personnel starting immediately. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Vote: 2-0 (*S. Marion not available for vote*)

- **The Commissioners will be holding a budget work session at their next meeting on December 20th.**

- **District Moderator**

Business Manager Ledger confirmed that Steven Borne has agreed to become the Rye Water District moderator, as Josh Scott is resigning from that position. She has already connected Mr. Borne with Attorney Scott, so he can get some information on how to run the meetings. The Commissioners will need to vote in the new moderator for Josh Scott's remaining term, which is a two year-term that ends in 2025.

The Commissioners agreed to vote Mr. Borne in as moderator at the next monthly meeting.

- **2024 Proposed Budget**

The Commissioners briefly reviewed the preliminary budget numbers.

- **End of Year Bonus**

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve an end of year bonus for all Rye Water District personnel in the amount of \$500. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Vote: 2-0 (*S. Marion not available for vote*)

Adjournment

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. Presentation by Waterworth

Lachlan Hunter, and Grange Gordon, from NH Waterworth, met with the Commission to give a presentation on their software and services to provide continuous utility rate management to assist with future budgeting and financial planning.

III. Approval of Minutes

- October 4th

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2023. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for October

Superintendent Arik Jones presented his monthly report, along with pumping charts and data reports for the month of October.

- Fall flushing for the District has been completed for Rye served customers. The Portsmouth side of the system will be flushed within the next few days. Water Operator Jacob Madore was lead on the flushing and did an excellent job. Very few dirty water complaints were received from residents during this cycle of flushing.

- Over the next few weeks, the water operators will continue with seasonal disconnects, winterizing hydrants, and hydrant inspections.
- The POE building is complete and all systems are functional. There is just a bit of paving left to complete. After the hydrant inspections, some time will be spent with the operators on finetuning the chlorination for both the analyzation and dosing.
- Several leaks out in the system have been repaired. One of concern is at 973 Ocean Blvd. The Conservation Commission is involved and the District is waiting on their recommendation for the replacement of that line because it goes through a vacant lot with wetlands adjacent.
- All meter calibrations have been completed and have met AWWA requirements.
- The sanitary survey was completed on October 24th with Jenn Mates from NH DES. Any items that were outstanding from the last survey have been addressed. The only item to be addressed is changing the drain screens for the Washington Road tanks.
- Backflow testing will be started over the next month, along with the lead and copper samples from the system.
- The District has completed its investigative monitoring and have had no hits of coliform or E. coli over the past year, so that criteria has been met.
- A cyber audit was completed with the Cyber Infrastructure Security Agency through U.S. Homeland Security. The District is waiting for the report.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the superintendent's report for October. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Chris Berg, Wright – Pierce – Project Updates

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, gave an update to the Commissioners in regards to ongoing district projects. The funding application for the additional funds for the water treatment facility has made it through the first pass. The subcommittee reviewed the project and recommended moving it to the full committee, which has a review and approval process as part of their December meeting. There's a good chance that the application will be approved.

Mr. Berg continued that a response has been received from Southeast Land Trust (SELT) in regard to the water source investigation project at the Brown Farm Lane. More information was needed in terms of environmental controls. Wright-Pierce is working on getting that information (erosion control detail) back to SELT.

The Wallis Road watermain project has been completed. The final paperwork will be drafted and the project can be closed out with the State. Mr. Berg noted that Novus has completed additional soil characterization at the Washington Road tank site for the pending tank painting project. Wright-Pierce is waiting for the results on that soil testing, in order to prepare an action plan. The asset management project continues to move forward. The water rate spreadsheet was forwarded in October to the Commission. The lead service line inventory is also moving along.

VI. Cash Flow Reports for October

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow and expenditure reports for the month of October. There was detailed review on expenditures remaining for 2023 under the water services line items. They also reviewed the treasurer's reports for August and September.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the cash flow reports for October. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of August. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of September. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VII. Correspondence

a. CIP Questions from Nicole L'Ecuyer, CIP Committee

Business Manager Dyana Ledger noted that an email was received from Nicole L'Ecuyer in regards to information for the Capital Improvements Plan from the Water District for the water treatment facility. Ms. L'Ecuyer was questioning the sources of funding. The exact sources of funding are not known at this time; however, there will be multiple sources of funding and all options are being researched. Business Manager Ledger will reach back out to Ms. L'Ecuyer with that information.

VIII. Old Business

b. Aquarion Letter to Rye Select Board

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the letter from Aquarion Water to the Rye Select Board. It was noted that some of the numbers, such as the median home cost, are different than what the Commissioners believe the numbers should be, as based on information received from the Rye Assessing Department. For example, Aquarion used a median of 1.73 million, which should be closer to \$800,000. Also, Aquarion charges each district (Rye Beach and Jenness Districts) a fee for hydrants, which was not calculated in the costs. There was discussion about whether or not the Commissioners want to reach out to the Select Board to address the letter. After discussion, it was agreed to not respond at this time; however, the Commissioners will keep the information in case it's needed in the future.

c. Attorney Eric Maher Letter rec'd on behalf of Select Board

The Commissioners received a letter from the Attorney Eric Maher on behalf of the Rye Select Board regarding the town's position on funding support for the water treatment facility. It was agreed that a response to Attorney Maher should come from the Rye Water District's attorney.

IX. New Business

d. Woodsum Drummond – Attorney Roman engagement letter

Motion by Scott Marion to execute the contract for Attorney Keriann Roman’s services to start as soon as possible. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

X. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

XI. Other Business

e. Alcohol – Drug Free Workplace Policy

The Commissioners agreed to ask Attorney Josh Scott to draft an Alcohol – Drug Free Workplace Policy. Attorney Scott will be sending an engagement letter for the work to be completed, which will be signed by Chair Hickson.

Adjournment

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 11:12 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, October 4, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce
Tom Mack, Resident**

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- September 6, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023 as written. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Introduction of New Operator – Caleb Thibodeau

Superintendent Arik Jones introduced Caleb Thibodeau to the Commissioners. Caleb is a life-long resident of Rye and has a background in landscaping. He has accepted the position of water operator and started working for the District as of October 2nd.

The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Thibodeau to the Water District and look forward to working with him.

IV. Chris Berg, Wright – Pierce – Project Updates

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, met with the Commissioners to give an update in regards to ongoing projects for the District. PFAS ruling still seems to be on schedule for early 2024. The sustainability grant/Garland Road water main was executed by DES and the project is

moving forward. The bench piloting for the water treatment plant should be executed this month. From a funding application standpoint, for the water treatment plant, most of the application has been completed. The Commissioners will need to vote on providing authority to submit a funding application to the Drinking Water Trust Fund.

Motion by Scott Marion to authorize Wright-Pierce to submit the funding application to the Drinking Water Trust Fund and to allow Superintendent Arik Jones to sign necessary documents. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Mr. Berg continued that Raftelis is working on the water rate study and what that may look like with the water treatment plant. In regards to the water treatment plant, Wright-Pierce will be developing an agreement for field scale pilot work and rolling that into preliminary design. The water source investigation letter for the Brown Lane Farm property has been submitted to NRCS and the District is now waiting for their approval to move forward. It's anticipated that approval will be received within the next couple of weeks with the test wells being drilled sometime this winter. Referring to the Wallis Road water main project, Mr. Berg noted that the contractor is installing pipe and all work should be completed by the end of October.

Mr. Berg presented an amended agreement from Wright-Pierce for the Washington Road tank painting for additional soil characterization. The agreement also covers discussions with DES about the proposed remediation of the soil.

There was some discussion in regards to reviewing the rate study within the next two months in order to make budgeting decisions for 2024.

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

Superintendent Arik Jones reviewed his report and pumping data for the month of September.

- The pumping data shows that the District is down about 15 million gallons in usage from this time last year. A few leaks in the system have been discovered over the past few months and have been addressed, which should also help in the pumping totals.
- Flushing started this week and will continue through the month to the first week in November. Notices for areas being flushed and the dates will be posted on the District's website. Signs have also been posted throughout the District to alert residents about the flushing.
- Bacterial samples will be taken within the week.
- All source meter calibrations will be done on October 13th.
- The DES sanitary survey is scheduled for this month with Jenn Mates.
- Fire Trail Lane water main is being installed. This is a new three house subdivision off Long John Road.
- The open water operator position has been posted on the District's website and will be sent to NH Water Works for posting. The District has been invited to participate in an event hosted by Steve Turner called 'Bring Back the Trades.' This is being held

on Saturday, October 14th at Ben's Auto Body. Superintendent Jones will be attending and bringing information to share with interested parties.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Superintendent's report for the month of September. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Cash Flow Reports for September

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports for September, along with the third quarter billing. They also reviewed the Treasurer's report for the month of July.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the cash flow and expenditure reports for September. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of July. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VII. Correspondence

- An email was received from John Ritchie, Sea Glass Lane, thanking the Water District for the recent notices and updates posted on the website and sent through email/text alerts. He congratulated the District for being ahead of the line in customer communications.

VIII. Old Business

a. Follow up on Public Meeting from 9/28

The Commissioners agreed that the public meeting held on September 28th went well. There were thirty-four residents in attendance. The presentation from the meeting is available on the District's website.

IX. New Business

None

X. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

XI. Other Business

- Commissioner Lopresto spoke to the Commission in regards to writing a follow-up letter to the Select Board in regards to the meeting of September 20th with the District to discuss a commitment from the Town for funding of the water treatment facility. The Select Board has not responded to the District and she would like to send a letter asking for their decision.

The Commissioners agreed that a letter thanking the Select Board for attending the meeting and letting them know that the District is waiting for their response would be okay to send. Commissioner Lopresto agreed to draft a letter and send to the other commissioners for review before sending.

- There was discussion about meeting dates for the month of November. Two of the Commissioners have a conflict with the November 15th work session. It was agreed to not hold a work session on that date, as there is another work session scheduled for November 29th.

At 10:25 a.m., Scott Marion made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.

Roll Call: Scott Marion – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Ralph Hickson – Aye

The Commission came out of non-public session at 10:58 a.m.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 10:59 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- August 2, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023 as written. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Update

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, gave an update on RWD ongoing projects. Both of the sustainability grants were executed last month and are with DES for processing. Those will likely be completed over the next couple of months and Wright-Pierce will be able to move forward on those projects. At this time, the Water District has been approved for eleven million dollars in funding, through the State Revolving Fund, for the water treatment facility. He noted that there is one million dollars in principal forgiveness out of the funding for emergent contaminates. Ten percent of the ten million dollars in funding remaining is available as principal forgiveness, as well. For further funding, the District can look towards the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund with the annual application process coming up in October. The treatment plant is the type of project that the State would be very interested in funding. He pointed out that the District will be in a better position for funding if they can say the project has already been approved through a warrant article.

It was noted by Chair Hickson that all sources of funding have to be specified in the warrant article.

Commissioner Marion expressed concerns that having a commitment for bonding might negate the ability to find other sources of funding.

Mr. Berg replied that he doesn't believe so, but he will speak with Wright-Pierce's strategic funding specialist, who is working on funding and grant opportunities for the District.

There was some discussion about ways to fund the treatment facility. There was also discussion about the rate study, which is being done by Raftelis Corp with the final report being presented to the Commission within the next two months.

Mr. Berg noted that the letter for the water investigation project for the Brown property has been submitted to NRCS; however, he has not yet received a response. He will follow up on the status of the letter. The lead service line inventory project started last month and data collection is moving along.

IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for August.

Superintendent Jones reviewed his monthly report and pumping charts for the month of August:

- The pumping totals are down about eight million from last year at this time, due to the large amount of rain received this summer.
- The bacteria samples are being taken within the next few days.
- A preconstruction meeting was held for Wallis Road main replacement recently. The project will be starting again this month. An adjustment in the area for the project has been made. The plan is now to go up to Odiorne Drive, but not on the opposite side of the road as originally intended, and do the same trench replacement. A target completion date is set for the end of October.
- The point of entry building has been completed and is now in operation. There is an issue with a proper residual analyzation. The field operators are collecting data which is being analyzed by the technicians who are working on the issue, which should be resolved in the next few weeks.
- A leak detection was performed over the last month through a grant with DES. Only one leak was detected in the system; however, one that was not identified popped up on Berry Brook Lane. The leak detection work is being done by a third party hired by DES. It's unclear whether the work is as comprehensive as it could be.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Superintendent's report for the month of July. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Reports for August – Treasurer’s Report

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow and expenditure reports for the month of August. There were no areas of concern noted by the Commissioners. They also reviewed the Treasurer’s report for the month of June with balancing sheets.

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Treasurer’s report for the month of June.
Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the cash flow reports for the month of August.
Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

VI. Correspondence

- a. Aqueous Film Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation –
Proposed Class Action PFAS Settlement**
The mail received was noted by the Commissioner and a file will be started.
- b. Follow up on email regarding Rye Master Plan update**
Business Manager Dyana Ledger confirmed that she followed up on the email received in regards to the Rye Master Plan update.

VII. Old Business

a. Meter Replacement Program

Business Manager Dyana Ledger gave a brief update on information she received from the Finance Director for Rye in regards to the question the Commission had about how to handle the expense presented by Superintendent Jones, at the last meeting, for a meter replacement program which would expense the meters over a three year period. It was advised by the Town’s Finance Director that this should be handled through a warrant article for the 2024 budget. The estimated cost for the meter replacement program is approximately \$330,000. Some of the costs could be covered from the Commission’s System Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, which can be used for replacement and expansion of the system. The Commissioners have the authority to expend from this fund.

There was discussion in regards to how to handle the warrant article for 2024. It was agreed that it might be best to include the expense in the budget and cover some of the cost from the capital reserve fund. The Commission will present a warrant article to add funds back to the capital reserve.

b. T-Mobile Lease Agreement

The Commissioner briefly reviewed the final version of the T-Mobile lease agreement, which will begin in April 2024. There were no issues or concerns.

Motion by Scott Marion to execute the T-Mobile Lease effective April 21, 2024 and to authorize Business Manager Dyana Ledger to digitally sign said agreement. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

VIII. New Business

a. Thompson Landing Escrow

A letter was received from Joe Coronati, engineer for the Thompson Landing Development, requesting release of escrow in the amount of \$15,000 being held by the Water District. The funds were being held in escrow for the purchase of an Aquarion water main along Route 1 in that area, which was proposed to be used to provide water to the Thompson Landing and Benchmark projects. Aquarion has determined that negotiations of the main would be difficult, as it would need to go through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). RWD has acquired the main under abandonment and has taken responsibility. A total of \$30,000 was collected for the main from both Thompson Landing and Benchmark. At this time, only Thompson Landing is requesting return of their portion of the escrow, as that project is complete. It's unknown when Benchmark will be moving forward with their project.

Motion by Scott Marion to authorize the release of escrow funds to Thompson Landing in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

X. Other Business

- The Commissioners agreed to invite the Select Board to their work session on September 20th to discuss the plans and possible funding for the treatment facility.

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 11:03 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, August 2, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce
Tom Mack, Resident**

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- July 5, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2023 as amended. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Update

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, gave an update on RWD ongoing projects. Referring to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) applications that were submitted on behalf of RWD, the PFAS water treatment facility made the funding list, which has principal forgiveness associated with emerging contaminants. Funding for each project is capped at ten million, so there is a grant/loan potential of ten million dollars associated with SRF. Jenn Mates from NH DES will meet with the Commissioners within the next couple of weeks to give more information on the funding program. He recommended going after additional funding through the Trust Fund and starting that process this fall, in order to move the project forward. RWD has been approved for a grant from NH DES to conduct the water treatment plant pilot work, which can begin once the grant is approved and signed by the Commission.

RWD is waiting to hear back from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in regards to the water source investigation on the Brown Lane Farm property. The work on the Wallis

Road main replacement will begin again in September. For the tank painting project, there is some additional information needed and Wright-Pierce will be meeting with DES to discuss a plan for moving forward on soil remediation. The intention is to still complete that work next year.

In regards to the Assessment Management Project, Mr. Berg noted that the action item is the level of service revisions with a meeting between the Commissioners and DES. The water rate study is also in progress and is coming to a completion. A kick-off meeting will be held later this month for the lead service inventory line work, as that grant agreement has been approved.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) grant for the Garland Road water main. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) grant for the WTP Benchmark Piloting. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to authorize Ralph Hickson to be the authorized signatory for both grants. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

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

Superintendent Arik Jones reviewed his monthly reports and pumping charts for the month of July.

- The pumping data and flow charts were reviewed with the Commissioners.
- The tank mixer was replaced. The mixer itself was covered under the warranty; however, RWD had to pay for the installation.
- The site work for the point of entry building will be completed within the next couple of days. Superintendent Jones presented photos showing the interior of the building. A target starting date for the chlorination equipment and operations in the building is the week of August 21st.
- There has been some interest in the open water operator position. Superintendent Jones will be conducting interviews over the next couple of weeks. The intent is to fill that open position by October 1st.
- The District's new truck is currently being outfitted with equipment this week and should be completed within the week.
- Bacterial samples will be pulled within the next few days for the month of August.
- Foreman Greg Vaillancourt has been focusing on updating meters out in the system. The crew has updated between fifty and sixty meters, so far this year, with another eighty in stock. The goal is to replace between one hundred and one hundred fifty by the end of the year.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Superintendent's report for the month of July. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Reports for July

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

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the cash flow reports for the month of July. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

None

VII. Old Business

a. Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

The Commissioners reviewed the CIP sheets for seven projects that have been submitted to the Capital Improvements Plan for the Town. Status sheets will be submitted for the Wallis Road main replacement project and Garland pump house upgrade, as those projects are coming to completion with final costs available for the submittals. CIP sheets for future RWD projects for the years 2024 – 2029 include: Sagamore Road pump station rehab; Washington Road tank maintenance; Breakfast Hill water tank maintenance; and water treatment plant.

b. RWD Informational Update Meeting for Fall

The Commissioners discussed a possible date to hold a public meeting to update the residents on projects the District has been working on over the past year and provide information on intended projects moving forward. It was agreed to hold a meeting on September 28th, 6:30 a.m., at the Rye Junior High. Superintendent Jones will reach out to the school to reserve the cafeteria for the meeting.

c. On-Call Wage Proposal

Business Manager Dyana Ledger presented an on-call wage proposal for the water operators based on a plan that is in place for DPW personnel to be on-call during the winter for snowplowing the town roads. The Commissioner agreed that an on-call wage would be appropriate and asked that a draft policy be presented at a future meeting for further review of the details. The wage proposal would need to be voted on by the Commission if the intent is to put it in place for the 2024 budget.

VIII. New Business

a. Meter Replacement Program

Superintendent Jones spoke to the Commissioners about a possible meter replacement program which would allow the District to purchase meters at today's pricing with a payment plan over the next three years. The intent is to replace older meters in the system with new Kamstrup

meters, in order to streamline and fully upgrade the system. There was some discussion on whether a warrant article would be needed in order to move forward with a purchase that would be over a three-year period. There was also discussion on the possibility of using the Extensions and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund to cover some of the costs, as the Commissioners are authorized to expend from this fund. It was agreed that more information is needed for further discussion at a future meeting.

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

X. Other Business

a. Fall Town Newsletter deadline August 21st

The Town Newsletter deadline is August 21st. Commissioner Marion agreed to draft an article to submit to Janice Ireland in the Select Board's Office.

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, July 5, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager**

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- June 7, 2023

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of June 7, 2023 as amended. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

- June 7, 2023 – Non-Public Minutes

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the non-public minutes of June 7, 2023 as written. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to seal the minutes of the non-public minutes of June 7, 2023. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Update

Not present, but will be attending the site walk following meeting with RCC.

IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for June

Superintendent Arik Jones reviewed his monthly reports and pumping charts for the month of May.

- The usage totals are down significantly from this time last year because of the heavy rain over the last few months.
- The lead and copper samples have been completed. A total of forty-one samples were taken from households. Out of all samples, only two came back with a detection of lead, with only one of those above the MCL limit of .015 ppm. The copper MCL is 1.3. The property with the higher lead detection also had the highest copper detection at 1.30. The other properties fell well below the MCL. Superintendent Jones confirmed that he will be following up with the homeowner in regards to the testing and what may be causing the detection of lead in their system.
- The major pipe connections for the point of entry were completed last week. The chlorination machine is running and chlorination tablets have been ordered. Samples have been pulled and results should be received within the next few days. The point of entry building should be running within the next two weeks.
- Over the past couple of months, there have been quite a few leaks in the Fairhill/Ocean Blvd area. The leaks were due to regular wear and tear, as that area tends to be quite wet and boggy.
- DES will be conducting a leak detection survey for RWD within the next few weeks. This work is being done through a grant received by DES.
- The replacement for the Breakfast Hill tank mixer has been received and will be installed by divers soon.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Superintendent's report for the month of June. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Reports for June

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports and expenditure graphs for the month of June. No issues or concerns were noted. There was some discussion in regards to the possibility of instituting an on-call wage program. It was agreed that the Business Manager should follow up with the Town Finance Director to see if there is a program that the Public Works Department follows for on-call personnel. There was also discussion about whether the superintendent position should be a salaried position, instead of an hourly position as it is currently. More information is needed for further discussion at a future meeting.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the cash flow reports for the month of May. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

a. Rye Planning Board – abutter's notice for 33 Sagamore Road

An abutter's notice was received for the property at 33 Sagamore Road owned by Bluestone Properties, LLC. The property is going before the Planning Board for an extension for approvals received from the Board for the property which is now a dirt parking lot used for The Atlantic Grill Restaurant. The Commissioners agreed that they did not have any issues with the project or request for an extension.

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business

Commissioner Lopresto noted that she spoke with Attorney Don Price, who works at the NH Consumer Advocate Office. Attorney Price was also involved with the Public Utilities Commission. His advice was that the Commission should not hold a public meeting with Aquarion, until the RWD Commission has met with the District's attorney. Commissioner Lopresto commented that she's not sure if the District's attorney has any experience with mergers and acquisitions. Within that field, there are subsets. She pointed out that Attorney Price said there could be many legal questions that will come up at the meeting that the Commission may not be able to answer. If a meeting is held, the Commission needs to have information on what would happen to the sale proceeds, whether it's a merger or acquisition, and other information; such as, water rates.

The Commissioners agreed that Superintendent Jones should reach out to Attorney Quinn before moving any further with Aquarion.

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

X. Other Business

The Commission reviewed the supplemental loan agreement received from DES Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund to finalize the Garland Road pump house project.

Motion by Scott Marion to authorize Ralph Hickson to sign the supplemental loan agreement for project #DWGT-54. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Chair Hickson recessed the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The Commissioners will reconvene their meeting at the Brown Lane Farm site walk with the Rye Conservation Commission.

Meeting reconvened at Brown Lane Farm at 11:03 a.m.

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SITE WALK MINUTES
July 5, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair McFarland at 11:03 AM.

Rye Conservation Commission members present at site walk: Chair McFarland, Vice Chair King, members Danna Truslow, Joe Tucker, Jeff Gardner, Karen Oliver, Mike Garvan, Clerk Susan Shepcaro.

Also present: Selectman Tom King, Land Use Assistant Kara Campbell, Greg Smith and Christopher Berg (Wright Pierce Engineering), Ralph Hickson, Scott Marion, and Arik Jones (Rye Water District), Mr. Jones arrived at 11:27. Tom Mack, Rye resident.

II. SITE WALK

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at the Brown Lane Farm property with the Rye Water District (RWD) and Wright Pierce to review the two potential well sites.

RCC member Jeff Gardner inquired about a trench being dug in the property access area for utilities. Wright Pierce's Christopher Berg responded affirmatively. Mr. Berg said a trench would travel from the parking area, through the two (2) fields and down the woods road. The trench would contain both power and signal utilities and a water pipe. Mr. Berg said a utility easement will be necessary. Vice Chair King reiterated that the access must remain pervious and not paved.

RCC member Garvan asked if a culvert will be used to get the heavy equipment over the wetlands. Mr. Berg said timber pilings will most likely be used. They will hold the drill rig. They were used at Cedar Run to get heavy equipment over Bailey's Brook.

RCC member Oliver reiterated that the work will be done in the winter when the ground is frozen. Mr. Berg stated that truck ruts will be less likely with frozen ground, but Wright Pierce will remove ruts should they occur.

RCC member Oliver also asked how wide the access road would be. Mr. Berg stated that the road would be 8-feet to 10-feet wide to allow for a pickup truck, the drill rig, and maintenance equipment. Mr. Berg stated a 20-foot high clearance is needed, and up to 12-foot wide access at drilling sites.

Vice Chair King asked if pedestrians will still be able to use the trail while work is being done. Mr. Berg responded negatively, stating it is too risky with work going on. Discussion ensued, it was mentioned that pedestrians could use the trail that cuts off to the east and, also, that the property could be accessed from the south at the SELT trails on North Road in North Hampton.

Member Shepcaro asked how long the work will take. Mr. Berg responded about 3 to 5 months.

There are two potential well sites: Target 1 and Target 2. Wright Pierce stated that Target 1 is their first choice.

The area of disturbance at Target 1 has been marked off with orange tape. Wright Pierce's Greg Smith stated that the saplings in this area will need to be removed. Mr. Smith stated that drill cuttings will either be removed from the site or put on top of the soil and eventually covered with loam and reseeded.

A step test will be conducted to determine water yield as well as water quality. Mr. Smith estimated it would take about a month to get the samples back. Vice Chair King reiterated her preference is that each well site be tested separately, removing the equipment after the first one, and bringing it back in if it is necessary to drill the second test well. Mr. Berg noted that it would be more expensive to leave the equipment there and that the drilling company was busy and wouldn't want the equipment to be idle.

Chair McFarland noted a metal tank in the vicinity of the Target 1 area. RWD commissioner Hickson requested that RCC request that the workers remove it while they are in the area.

RCC member Truslow asked how the well area will be restored after the disturbance caused by drilling. Mr. Smith stated that the area will be loamed and seeded. RCC member Shepcaro recommended a natural conservation seed mix. RCC member Garvan recommended plantings. RWD Commissioner Marion suggested the seed mix. The importance of immediately seeding with a conservation seed mix was discussed. The conservation mix will keep invasive species from taking over the disturbed area. Additional plantings and bushes can be added in a later phase of the project. The final recommendation will come from RCC.

RCC asked if a fence or building will be required around the well. Mr. Berg stated that a chain link security fence will be used. Vice Chair King asked if there will be a building of any sort near the well. Mr. Berg responded negatively, stating that much further down the line a building would likely be sited nearer the entrance to the woods or in the field. Mr. Berg also stated that if there is a building, it will not be visible from the Browns' home or from West Road.

Mr. Berg stated that if the work is less than a day, an NHDES permit is not needed.

Mr. Berg stated that at Target 1, the entire 400-foot well protection radius is on town land.

Member Gardner asked how these two sites were chosen as options. Mr. Berg said the conductivity test was run on the trail.

Target 2 is located closer to the entrance of the trail. The area of disturbance was not flagged with orange tape; however, it is about 8-feet east of the flag near the trail. There is a pond adjacent to Target 2. RCC agrees with Wright Pierce that Target 1 is a less environmentally impactful option than Target 2.

Wright Pierce and the RWD acknowledge that RCC requires that only one test well be drilled at this time. After the first test well is drilled other options may be discussed if necessary.

RCC member Garvan commented that this project is not typical of the projects that come before the commission. Generally, an applicant presents a complete engineering plan for consideration. Here the RWD is presenting a plan for the test drilling and not a complete plan that includes the construction of a functioning town well. The final phase is only being partially addressed and the commission needs to know as much as possible about the impacts of the final phase. Mr. Marion had mentioned that a final design costs money and may not be needed if the test wells are not productive enough to be viable as a town water source. That is understood, but the commission does not want to be in a position where it

doesn't know if there are impacts in the final phase that would cause the commission to negatively view the project.

Vice Chair King will send site walk minutes to Brown family.

Next steps will be for Rye Conservation Commission to send site walk minutes to Rye Water District and Wright Pierce by Monday, July 10 or Tuesday, July 11. RWD and Wright Pierce will attend July 13, 2023, RCC meeting, after which a final letter will be sent to NRCS.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The site walk meeting was closed by Chair McFarland at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Shepcaro", followed by a horizontal line.

Susan Shepcaro, Clerk

The Rye Water District Commissioners adjourned their meeting at 12:05 p.m. after the site walk with the Rye Conservation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, June 7, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Tom Mack, Resident**

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- May 3, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2023 as amended. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Update

Not present at meeting

IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for May

Superintendent Arik Jones reviewed his monthly reports and pumping charts for the month of May.

- The water usage is down from this time last year, due to the recent rainfall received over the past month. Last year, May had 2.15 inches of rain and this May, almost 5 inches of rain has been received.
- There are no concerns with the well levels at this time, nor the pumping of gallons per minute.
- The construction of the point of entry building is anticipated to be completed by the end of the week. This project was done to provide a single point of entry for all the

wells. This will allow for a more uniform blend of water before going out to customers. It will also allow for a single point of chlorination and will potentially allow for sequestering to hold the iron in suspension. The HVAC system for the building will be done within the next two weeks. An electrical conduit will be dug from the Garland well to the building. The reason for this over a new service is because this building will be in control of the generator used in case of failure. There will be enough load capacity to supply the point of entry building and the Garland pump house from the one generator.

- Lead and copper samples are being collected or have been scheduled to go out (24 out of the 40). The samples are required to be done by the end of June. Another round of 40 samples is due the second half of the year.
- Backflow testing is about 90% complete.
- The June bacteria samples are being pulled today. Quarter 2 PFAS samples were pulled last week, so the results should be ready within two weeks.
- Work has been done with CMA Engineering to access the monitoring wells to look at static and pumping levels. From this point forward, CMA will be required to submit PFAS information also.
- The tank mixer at Breakfast Hill had a hard fault failure a couple of months ago. A full diagnostic was done and it was determined that there is a default in the equipment. The manufacturing company has issued a new mixer under warranty. The install will be scheduled with Underwater Solutions soon and final connections will be made by Ewing Electrical.
- Rye Water has been fortunate to acquire a leak detection grant from DES, almost every year it's been available. DES will be coming out on June 13th to perform leak detection work in the District. The applications for the grant are already being submitted for next year.
- DES has wrapped up water audit work being done by Tighe and Bond Engineering. A conference is being held at DES on June 15th for the finalization of the audit report.
- The Wallis Road project is on hold at this time for the summer season. A progress meeting was held on June 6th with Wright-Pierce and the contractor. There were some issues with the submittals for payment with the contractor for payment; however, that has since been resolved.
- An irrigation permit form is being drafted and will be reviewed by the building inspector. A copy of the draft will be submitted to the Commission for review once completed.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Superintendent's report for the month of May. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Reports for May

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports and expenditure graphs for the month of May. There was a question in regards to the permits and licensing budget item, and the main repairs line item. Business Manager Dyana Ledger will follow up on these figures to confirm accuracy of year-to-date expenditures for these items.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the cash flow reports for the month of May. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received for projects going before the Planning Board at their next meeting. The Commission did not see any issues of concern with the projects being proposed that may affect water district property.

- a. Rye Planning Board – abutter’s notice for 33 Sagamore Road**
- b. Rye Planning Board – abutter’s notice for 850 Washington Road**

VII. Old Business

a. Aquarion Water Discussion

The Commission had a brief discussion about the meeting that was held with Aquarion Water on May 31st regarding a possible merger.

Commissioner Marion commented that the proposal should be presented to the residents of the District.

Commissioner Lopresto stated she was very impressed with the people from Aquarion and Carl McMorran does an excellent job. She has spoken with Frank Drake at Rye Beach and he has been very happy with Aquarion through the years. She thought it was a very good meeting with Aquarion and it needs to be presented to the Town, as well as presenting the discussion that was had with Portsmouth that they would like to continue as is in an informal partnership. She pointed out the customers have to decide.

Commissioner Marion noted that Aquarion is looking for more information from Rye Water. The Commission needs to authorize the Business Manager and Superintendent to provide that information, so Aquarion can make a decision on whether they want to move forward.

Commissioner Lopresto stated that the other question that needs to be asked is whether the District stays as is. Speaking to Superintendent Jones, Commissioner Lopresto asked how he sees the Rye Water District in five years.

Superintendent Jones stated that he would like to see the Rye Water District maintain its control within itself. In looking at external merging, the only route that should be considered, if it goes in that direction, is with the Town.

Commissioner Lopresto stated this is something that should be considered also, meeting with the Town.

Commissioner Marion agreed that the Town should be involved. He is not sure of the governance structure and how it would work.

Commissioner Hickson commented that he believes it would become part of public works, just like Portsmouth and other towns.

Commissioner Lopresto stated there needs to be a long-term plan. RWD could look at a three-year plan and stay as is. If the treatment plan comes into play, it's going to require more personnel.

Superintendent Jones commented that in his opinion, there really isn't a choice about the central treatment plant. The ruling is coming and there is no question. He noted that Aquarion is asking for RWD to divulge a lot of information, and they want to review the assets and financials. It's expected that RWD is going to "open the door." He pointed out that he asked for one small thing and they shut it down. Superintendent Jones stated the door is not going both ways. He commented that Henniker was purchased by Aquarion. It was a very similar community like Rye. Aquarion boasted that they were going to have good rates and once they got in, every year the rates were increased. Aquarion's sales pitch that they have a 95% customer satisfaction is not correct.

Commissioner Lopresto agreed with Superintendent Jones.

Superintendent Jones continued that he thinks personally, especially with what happened with the boil order, that RWD owes the people that they serve the rebuilding of trust in RWD. The District should start moving forward with doing the right thing with treating the water. Five years down the road, after the work has been done, maybe Aquarion should be considered. He is concerned that the sale of the Rye Water District will transpire without proper information and the residents will regret what they have done down the road.

Business Manager Ledger commented that people are in a vulnerable state right now because of the past boil order. They might make a decision that they wouldn't have made a year ago.

Commissioner Lopresto commented that she thinks people have moved on from the boil order.

Commissioner Marion stated that as a commissioner, it doesn't matter what we think as an individual. The Commissioners need to do the due diligence as a responsibility to the District. The information should be presented to the public at informational sessions. It's a legitimate proposal. He feels the Commission needs to be open.

Chair Hickson agreed. It has to be presented to the public to get their input.

Commissioner Lopresto commented she would like to get their input; however, they are also going to ask what the Commission thinks. She does not know what the answer is right now. She is not sure what is best for the Town.

Superintendent Jones pointed out that Aquarion will need to present the information and let the people make the decision.

Business Manager Ledger agreed that people will look to the Commissioners for advice.

Commissioner Marion noted the proposal is not at that point. This is just initial information sessions to address questions.

Business Manager Ledger pointed out that it should be brought to the residents' attention that Aquarion is not going to be paying for this merger. Aquarion was talking about a merger surcharge. The residents are going to be paying for the merger. In regards to the treatment plant, not all residents are going to pitch in to help build a treatment plant, as it would not benefit all Aquarion customers. There will be a surcharge to the residents for the treatment plant.

Commissioner Lopresto pointed out that Aquarion bought out the water rights in Haverhill and provided the water for over eighteen years. The City of Haverhill ended up paying one hundred and fourteen million to get its control back.

Business Manager Ledger commented there would have to be a vote to dissolve the District. She also commented that the Rye Beach and Jenness Beach Precincts collect a tax, in order to pay Aquarion for hydrants used for fire protection. The question would be whether the Rye Water District could even dissolve because there would still be a tax for hydrants.

Superintendent Jones pointed out there are also customers in the District who are supplied by Portsmouth, so this would have to be factored in. Is the Rye Water District still going to exist for those customers?

Commissioner Marion stated these are all legal issues. That is why there needs to be more ears involved. The Town is going to be implicated in some way. It would probably be cleanest for the Town if the District still existed, so hydrants and such could be dealt with.

There was some discussion about setting up a meeting with the Town Selectmen. It was agreed this should be the first meeting for the Commissioners. There was also some discussion about providing Aquarion with the additional information that they requested. The Commissioners agreed that they should be provided the information. Commissioner Marion agreed to reach out to Selectman Tom King to set up a meeting.

Tom Mack, resident, asked to make a brief comment on Aquarion. He stated that twenty years ago during a study of this area, he went to all the towns and asked for data. The towns opened their doors, Rye included. With Aquarion, it was entirely different as a corporation. They would respond with a lot of pressure and would only allow certain data to be given. Aquarion won't be as open about what they're doing. They go through a process with their consultants about what can be shared.

Commissioner Marion noted this is part of the things that people will have to understand. People are not going to be able to just walk up to the superintendent and talk to him for an hour. He reiterated that they have to bring the information to the residents. By law, they have to be more open. He thinks the Commission needs to follow this through.

It was noted that a two-thirds vote is needed to dissolve a district. Chair Hickson agreed that this proposal needs to be brought to the residents. He summarized that a meeting should be set up with the Select Board to get their input. It was agreed to try to set up a meeting with the Select Board for June 21st.

Motion by Scott Marion to authorize the Business Manager and Superintendent to provide the information requested by Aquarion. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

b. Cell Lease – SPRINTCOM, INC.

The Commission reviewed the renewal lease for SPRINTCOM, INC for cell equipment located on the Breakfast Hill tank. Attorney Frank Quinn has reviewed the lease for RWD and has made some recommended edits. The lease begins in April of 2024. The Commissioners did not have any issues with Attorney Quinn's edits. The draft lease will be sent back to SPRINTCOM for their final review and approval. The lease will come back to the Commissioners for a vote and signatures before going into effect.

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

X. Other Business

a. Water Operator job posting

The Commissioners reviewed and agreed with the water operator job posting. The job posting will be put on the website and on the State's municipal job posting sites.

b. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation

At 10:50 a.m., Scott Marion made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.

Roll Call: Scott Marion – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Ralph Hickson – Aye

The Commission came out of non-public session at 11:08 a.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 11:09 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager**

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- **April 5, 2023**

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Updates

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, met with the Commissioners to give an update on RWD projects. The work is complete on the vernal pools for the water source investigation project, which was done by Soil Scientist Marc Jacobs. A final report will be completed and forwarded along to Rye Conservation Commission, as well as NRCS. It is anticipated that further field investigation and test wells on the Brown Lane Farm property will continue later this summer. The point of entry building at the Garland well is moving along. The foundation is complete and the framer is now on site. It is anticipated that the building will be completed by summer.

Mr. Berg continued that the Wallis Road piping has been installed to Park Ridge. Valve clusters are being cut in at the intersection of Ocean and Park Ridge. A stop construction date is planned for Memorial Day weekend. The soil characterization for the Washington Road tank site is

scheduled for May 5th. The lead removal and tank painting project is planned to go out to bid in 2024.

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

Superintendent Jones reviewed his monthly report and pumping chart for April.

- Pumping totals are down from this time last year. This could be due to several leak repairs in the system. It could also be from the stabilization of the effects of high usage during Covid, which is now dwindling off.
- Flushing of the system took place during the month of April and is now completed. The Portsmouth side of the system will be addressed in the next couple of weeks.
- Static and pumping levels of the wells are in good condition due to the amount of recent rainfall. The well levels are returning to more than average GPM flows.
- Most of the piping has been put in place for the point of entry project. The system is now operating on a single point of entry. The foundation footings and walls are in for the point of entry building. The electrical equipment has been ordered for the project. It's anticipated that the project will be completed on schedule.
- The new operator has completed his background check and drug testing. He is scheduled to begin work on May 8th.
- A new truck has been located for the District, which will be used in the field by the new operator. A Ford F-150 will be picked up next week from Londonderry Ford.
- The State monthly samples are being taken within the week. The samples for iron, manganese, HPCs and secondary bacteria were pulled last week. The results have not yet been received.
- The irrigation policy has been posted to the District's website. An irrigation system permit form is now being drafted.
- The annual leak detection via NH DES grant is moving forward with the same company who has done the work in the past.
- Craig Musselman, CMA Engineering, is working on further analyzation of the data from the landfill, which will be addressed at an upcoming town select board meeting. Several spreadsheets have been prepared with information with regard to properties connected to the RWD system for Mr. Musselman.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Superintendent's monthly report. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Report for April

The Commissioners reviewed the expenditure report for the month of April. They also reviewed the annual billing from April and initialed the billing report. There were no issues or concerns.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the cash flow report for April. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

None

VII. Old Business

a. John Guilfoil Public Relations Contract

The Commission discussed whether RWD should enter into a public relations contract at this time. The contract presented to the District would cover four pieces of content a month. It's unsure at this time if the District even has four pieces of content to post each month.

Commissioner Lopresto noted that the District might not have the content now; however, there are some exciting things coming down the pike. That would be the time to really market what the District is doing. Right now, she doesn't think it's a need and the District should wait a year.

Chair Hickson suggested asking for more information and clarity on what is going to be provided from the public relations firm for the fee paid each month. He also suggested contacting the current website hosting company to get an estimate on what it would cost to update the District's website.

Motion by Scott Marion to table the public relations consulting proposal for further information. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VIII. New Business

a. PUBLIC HEARING – LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY GRANT – The purpose of the hearing is to consider acceptance and expenditure of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) in funds from NH DES for a Lead Service Line Inventory Grant.

At 10:28 a.m., Chair Hickson opened the public hearing for the lead service line survey grant. The NH DES grant will be used to conduct a survey of all water service lines from the road to the house to identify any lead in the service lines. It's expected that RWD does not have any lead in its service lines. If there are any lines identified, those lines would be replaced. RWD has records of every service line within the District. Lead service lines were used pre-1940's. The Water District started construction and water service connections to the distribution system in the 1950's and beyond.

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce, explained the reason for the grant and the process for identifying any lead service lines.

Chair Hickson closed the public hearing at 10:35 a.m.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the \$40,000 grant from DES to do the lead service line inventory. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No areas of concern for the Water District were noted.

X. Other Business

Commissioner Lopresto proposed a new mission statement for the Water District and presented it for the Commissioners review.

Chair Hickson and Commissioner Marion agreed with the proposed mission statement.

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to change the mission statement of the Rye Water District to:
At Rye Water District, our mission is to provide the Rye Water District community with drinking water that meets and/or exceeds all current federal and state drinking standards along with excellent customer service and environmental conservation.

Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

- Town spring newsletter article is due to Janice Ireland by May 15th.
- Commissioner Lopresto spoke to the Commission about philanthropy work. She would like to start “H2O Philanthropy” and would like the first recipient to be the Goss Farm and RCC with the donation of rain barrels.

There was discussion about whether or not RWD would be able to make public donations as a public entity. More information would be needed.

- Superintendent Jones and RWD is receiving the 2023 Source Water Sustainability Award from NH DES for exemplary work to institute water conservation measures to significantly reduce excessive water use. RWD worked with the Town of Rye to institute water use restrictions during drought periods.

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.
All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

RYE WATER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

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

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- March 1, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

- March 22, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Election of Officers: Chair & Vice-Chair

Motion by Scott Marion to nominate Ralph Hickson as chair. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to nominate Scott Marion as vice-chair. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

IV. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce: Project Updates

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, gave an update to the Commission in regards to ongoing projects for the District. RWD has an opportunity with DES to receive a Lead Service Grant in the amount of \$50,000. The grant can be used to develop a service line inventory for the District. DES has approved RWD for two of the three sustainability grants, which were submitted in December. The amounts awarded under each grant is \$50,000. The Commission just needs to decide which two projects they would like to move forward.

It was agreed by the Commission to use the grants for the office booster pump station project and the Garland Road water main to connect high service to low service zones.

Mr. Berg noted that the draft letter to NRCS for water source at Brown Lane Farm is ready for the Rye Conservation Commission's review. He is waiting to hear back from RCC on their thoughts before submitting the letter to NRCS. The intent is to have Marc Jacobs at the property this spring to do the mapping of vernal pools.

The Wallis Road water main replacement has started again for the spring. The next step in the project is to do directional drilling from east of Appledore toward Odiorne. The intention is to get as much work done on this project before Memorial Day. Some additional work may be needed in the fall to finalize the work.

Referring to the water tank painting project, Mr. Berg commented that additional soil characterizations are required for the area around the tank. The soil work should be moving forward within the next month. The painting is potentially on the docket for bidding early next year. Mr. Berg continued that Wright-Pierce will be working on a draft document for the Level of Service project. The document will address key performance indicators and how RWD measures against the goals based on input from the public, as well as from a regulatory standpoint. The document should be ready later this month. The water rate study is being worked on as part of the Asset Management Plan. The intent is to have the rate study ready for review in May.

Mr. Berg noted that State Revolving Fund (SRF) applications are due in early June. This is a low interest loan opportunity for projects RWD would like to move forward. It was agreed that the Brown Farm Lane water source and the treatment plant would be good projects to put forward, along with the tank painting project.

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

Superintendent Arik Jones presented his monthly report, and data charts for the month of March.

- The pumping totals are down for the month of March in comparison to the same time frame last year.
- The point of entry project at Garland is about three-quarters complete.
- Required monthly samples for the system for March came back clear, as well as no identifiable plate counts for the wells. The PFAS samples for quarter 1 have been

received and are as anticipated. Quarter 3 is usually where higher PFAS values are seen because of the higher usage during the summer months. Quarter 1 is where lower values are seen.

- A second interview is being conducted in the next few days for the open water operator position.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Superintendent's report for March. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Cash Flow Reports for March

The Commissioners reviewed the monthly cash flow reports for the month of March. They also reviewed the Treasurer's reports for the months of January and February. There were no issues or concerns noted.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Treasurer's report for January. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Treasurer's report for February. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the cash flow reports for March. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VII. Correspondence

- a. Letter rec'd Karen Andronaco, Partners Bank and response from Amy Thibodeau, RWD Treasurer

The Commission agreed with the Treasurer's proposal to move RWD's general fund account back to TD Bank and to leave the escrow accounts with Partners Bank.

Motion by Scott Marion to move the general fund to TD Bank in accordance with the recommendation of the Rye Water District Treasurer. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VIII. Old Business

a. Cross Connection

The Commission voted to accept the Cross Connection Policy at a previous meeting. The Cross Connection now needs to be signed by the Commissioners.

IX. New Business

a. Cellular Lease Renewal Contract

A renewal lease for TD Mobile was received for the Commissioners review. The cellular equipment is located on the Breakfast Hill water tank. It was agreed to send the lease to Attorney Quinn for his review.

b. Seacoast Drinking Water Commission

The Commissioners discussed who would be representing the Rye Water District on the Seacoast Drinking Water Commission moving forward, as Art Ditto previously held the position. Commissioner Hickson agreed to be the new representative for the District.

c. Aquarion/Portsmouth Water

There was discussion about inviting Brian Goetz from Portsmouth Water and Jenn Mates from DES to a meeting to discuss the possibility of receiving Portsmouth water to serve homes within the Rye Water District. There was also discussion about following up with Aquarion Water about their proposal to acquire the Water District. It was agreed to invite Brian Goetz and Jenn Mates to a meeting with the Commission on May 17th. Aquarion Water will be invited back in to speak with the Commission on May 31st.

d. Resident question about a five-member commission

A question was raised at RWD's Annual Meeting about the possibility of having a five-member commission. Under RSA §38:18, the board of commissioners shall consist of three or more citizens of such municipality for vested management, control, and direction of the district. The Commission agreed that at this time, the three-member commission works well for the District and it should be kept as is.

X. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns noted.

XI. Other Business

a. Public Relation Firm

Business Manager Dyana Ledger will reach out to John Guilfoil Public Relations to ask them to meet with the Commissioners at their meeting on April 19th.

XII. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Legal

At 11:15 p.m., Scott Marion made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Legal. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.

Roll Call: Scott Marion – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Ralph Hickson – Aye

The Commission came out of non-public session at 11:35 p.m.

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 11:45 p.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.
All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger

Rye Water District Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 25, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Rye Junior High

On March 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rye Junior High School, Moderator Joshua Scott convened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Scott introduced the Water District Commissioners Scott Marion, Ralph Hickson, and Arthur Ditto. He thanked Art Ditto for serving on the Commission for the past fifteen years. Commissioner Ditto will not be seeking reelection for his seat. Mr. Scott noted that the Commissioners hold monthly meetings, and workshops. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into being a commissioner for the Rye Water District. Commissioner Ditto has put in a lot of work and effort over the years.

Commissioner Marion stated that he has been on the Commission for a year. During that year, he has benefited from Art's tutelage. The amount of knowledge that Art has in the District's water system, and water systems in general, is immense. He thanked Art for his service to the District over the past fifteen years.

RWD Superintendent Arik Jones commented that he has worked with Commissioner Ditto since 2008. He is a phenomenal individual with the capacity to always make a solid strong decision based on logic and rationalism. Commissioner Ditto deserves a lot of applause for the time he has served on the Commission.

Business Manager Dyana Ledger thanked Commissioner Ditto for his guidance and expertise over the years in navigating the State RSAs to the minutiae of the budgeting process. He will surely be missed on the Commission.

Commissioner Hickson stated that he has worked beside Art on the Commission for the past fifteen years. There is not a more dedicated individual who is more committed to Rye Water with no other agenda other than to help provide good Rye water. He will surely miss working with Art on the Commission.

The Water District Commissioners presented Commissioner Ditto with a plaque in appreciation for his service.

Moderator Scott explained that the vote for the open commissioner seat is going to be done a bit different this year, as there has never been more than one candidate running for the position. He will be accepting nominations for commissioner. The candidates will then be asked to come forward to give a brief speech about themselves and why they wish to be a commissioner. Voting will be done by written ballot and dropped in the ballot box at the clerk's table. Every voter was given an index card to use for voting upon check-in. While people are voting, the meeting will continue on to the next article to give time for the counting of the ballots.

Article #01 To choose a Commissioner for the ensuing three (3) years.

Moderator Scott called for nominations for commissioner.

Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road, thanked everyone for attending. He noted that people in the District can vote to change the meeting structure where people would actually vote on election day. Mr. Borne continued that over the past ten years, every time he has had questions, Art Ditto is the first one to get back to him. He thanked Commissioner Ditto for all the work he has done, and for being so responsive and helpful. Mr. Borne continued that six months ago, Dr. Rosalie Lopresto started asking questions about the PFOAs. He did his best to answer her questions but suggested that she go to the Water District meetings. Dr. Lopresto started attending the commissioner's meeting on Wednesday mornings. She has also been to PFOA conferences and talked to experts. When she learned that Commissioner Ditto was stepping down, she said that she could do the job. Mr. Borne noted that a person with medical experience is really needed right now with all the issues and concerns with water.

Motion by Steven Borne to nominate Dr. Rosalie Lopresto as the next Rye Water District Commissioner. Seconded by Katy Sherman.

Moderator Scott called for further nominations for commissioner.

Motion by Joe Tucker to nominate Julie Tucker as Rye Water District Commissioner. Seconded by Ben Tweedie.

Moderator Scott invited the nominees to speak.

Rosalie Lopresto-Drakatos, 64 Liberty Common, stated that she would like to start off with a quote by 17th Century Historian Thomas Fuller: "You never know the worth of water until the well is dry." She and her husband moved to Rye in 1999, raised two children in the community, and is a very proud dog owner. She has recently retired as a board certified doctor after twenty-five years and CEO of her own practice. She is also a licensed realtor for Bean Group and has been since 2016. She attended Kenyon College in Ohio majoring in Marine Biology on the pre-medicine track. Dr. Lopresto-Drakatos continued that at this stage of her life, she has the opportunity to give back to the Town. Her interests circle around Rye's natural resources and drinking water. For the past six months, she has performed her own due diligence by making inquiries and contacting leaders in the State, the Town, and other local water purveyors. She has attended meetings about Rye's drinking water wells, landfills, and PFAS. This month, she attended the Coakley Landfill Group meeting, as well as the Safe Water Advisory Group in Portsmouth. Dr. Lopresto-Drakatos is involved in the SB 85 Legislative Commission to study environmentally-triggered chronic disease. On March 8th, she attended a New England stakeholder conference on PFAS and drinking water for utilities with the Rye Water District. At the end of the meeting, people in attendance received a personal tour of the Pease Tradeport facility. Next week, she will be participating in the EPA Professional Community webinar on the proposed PFAS regulations eminent this year.

Dr. Lopresto-Drakatos stated that she wants to be crystal clear and assure the citizens that Rye Water is not a partisan issue. It involves health and science. Having been the CEO of her own successful business for twenty years, she considers herself to be prudent financially. As such, she is mindful of the costs and benefits of building a new PFAS water treatment facility for seventeen hundred households before exploring other options; such as, the potential to join another municipality with a Rye system that is already in place. A commissioner at one of the meetings quoted an estimate of eleven million dollars. Just this week, it was reported that the Pudding Hill aquifer plant in Dover will cost fifteen million dollars; notwithstanding, the additional thousands yearly in operational and management costs associated with staying compliant. With her background in biology, health, business, and real estate, in addition to be fiscally responsible, she believes she would be a benefit to the Rye Water District team, in collaboration with the citizens as friends and neighbors, to help tackle the challenges ahead for access to clean, healthy, drinking water. She commented that Craig Lounsborough once said: "Men can dig wells but they can't create water."

Julie Tucker, 960 Washington Road, stated that as a Rye resident for twenty years, she is seeking a position on the Rye Water District Commission. Her goal in asking for this position is to help the Rye Water District to provide a clean, safe, consistent water supply system that is able to meet the needs of Rye Water District consumers and to ensure the water system is meeting the needs of the Rye Fire Department to be sure there is adequate fire control within the Town. She will seek to keep Rye Water District consumers well informed about their water supply in an accessible, understandable manner, and will solicit public input at all times. Rye's water supply is a complex system and there's a lot to be considered in meeting those goals. The Rye Water District is currently looking for new water sources and is considering different options for a water treatment plant, all while addressing water system maintenance and safety needs. With these challenges, a commissioner must research extensively, use experts for information, know what questions to ask, and carefully assess the costs and benefits to every action that may be taken to provide the best quality of water for the Town. Commissioners must also keep the public well informed and ensure citizens that they are listening to their concerns.

Mrs. Tucker continued that her interest in Rye's water quality began when an old well on her property was one of the fifteen tested in Rye by NH DES for possible PFAS contaminants. She noted that her yard abuts the old Grove Road Landfill, which is a source of PFAS in the community. She was appointed by the Governor to the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation, in which two years were spent looking at water safety issues in Rye and the surrounding areas. More recently, she has attended the Rye Water District monthly meetings. She lives with her husband Joe on Washington Road where they have a small farm and a pollinator field for the protection of wildlife. She started her career after obtaining a master's degree in regional planning and worked for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission in Dover, NH. She now currently works for a local landscape company. She was also a NH Fish and Game licensed wildlife rehabilitator, helping injured and orphaned wildlife to be sure they can be sent back to the wild. She thanked everyone for attending and asked for the voters' support.

At 10:17 a.m., Moderator Scott opened the ballot box for voting on commissioner and paused the meeting to give everyone time to vote. The meeting was reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

Article #02 To choose a Moderator for the ensuing two (2) years.

Motion by Scott Marion to nominate Joshua Scott as moderator. Seconded by Steve Borne.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion on the nomination. Hearing none, he called for a vote on the nomination of Joshua Scott as moderator.

Motion passed.

Article #03 To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing three (3) years.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to nominate Amy Thibodeau for treasurer. Seconded by Art Ditto.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion on the nomination. Hearing none, he called for a vote on the nomination of Amy Thibodeau as treasurer.

Motion passed.

Article #04 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the District's existing Storage Tank Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established for the purpose of maintaining the water storage tanks. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required)

*THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: 2-0
THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE: 10-0*

Motion by Scott Marion to move Article #04 to the floor. Seconded by Ralph Hickson.

Commissioner Ditto explained that this particular expendable trust fund is for maintenance of the three water tanks in the District located on Washington Road and Route 1. The current balance in this particular fund is \$185,000. Those funds will probably be used in a couple of years for the painting of one of the tanks on Washington Road, which has lead paint under several other layers of paint. This will require a special process for removal of the lead paint. The intent of these reserve funds is to help control the tax burden brought on by major capital projects.

Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road, asked if a public hearing is necessary to take funds out of this trust fund.

Commissioner Ditto noted that when the original warrant article was presented to the voters to establish the trust fund, included in the wording was that the commissioners would be authorized to expend from the trust fund. A public hearing is not needed for the commissioners to expend from the fund.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion. Hearing no further comments, Moderator Scott called for a vote on Article #04.

Motion passed.

Article #05 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the District's existing Equipment and Buildings Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of purchase, repair, modification, or replacement of equipment and buildings that support operations of the water distribution system. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required)

*THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: 2-0
THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE: 10-0*

Motion by Ralph Hickson to move Article #05 to the floor. Seconded by Scott Marion.

Commissioner Ditto noted that this capital reserve fund is for the repair and replacement of buildings and equipment. The current balance in this fund is approximately \$55,000. A good portion of this fund was used last year to purchase a truck, which was on order for over a year and was just received.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion. Hearing no further comments, Moderator Scott called for a vote on Article #05.

Motion passed.

Article #06 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the District's existing System Replacement Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of replacing or enlarging the distribution system. (Majority vote required)

*THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: 2-0
THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE: 10-0*

Motion by Scott Marion to move Article #06 to the floor. Seconded by Art Ditto.

Commissioner Ditto explained that this particular reserve fund has a balance of approximately \$154,000. The reserve fund is used to replace or expand the existing system.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion. Hearing no further comments, Moderator Scott called for a vote on Article #04.

Motion passed.

Motion by Scott Marion to restrict reconsideration of Articles #02 through #06. Seconded by Art Ditto.

Moderator Scott called for a vote on the motion to restrict Articles #02 through #06.

Motion passed.

Article #07 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million One Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$2,159,446) for general district operations and to defray Water District charges for the ensuing year. This article does not include appropriations contained in any other article addressed. (Majority vote required)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: 3-0
THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE: 10-0

Motion by Ralph Hickson to move Article #07 to the floor. Seconded by Scott Marion.

Mr. Borne commented that at one of the select board meetings, there was discussion about \$500,000 that the Town received in American Recovery Funds. There was some discussion about some of that money going to the Water District. He asked if the Water District received any of the money.

Commissioner Hickson replied that the Water District did not receive any of those funds. The funds were split into two payments to the Town. The Water District was supposed to receive the second payment. He believes the money was used by the Town for reconstruction of a culvert.

Mr. Cummins commented there are seventeen hundred connections in the District. As he understands, somewhere between twelve and fifteen hundred connections have been installed or updated with a backflow preventer. There are a few hundred connections that are not protected by backflow preventers. Since those connections will ultimately be updated, he thinks it's reasonable to have them done sooner rather than later. He would suggest increasing the budget to cover the expense.

Motion by Joe Cummins to increase the Rye Water District Budget by \$50,000. Seconded by Carissa Magri.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion on the motion to increase the budget by \$50,000.

Commissioner Marion stated that it's unsure what the cost would be to do this work and whether or not the District has the authority to do so. However, he would suggest that this be studied for future budgets. He pointed out that for this kind of one-time expenditure, it would probably need to be a separate warrant.

RWD Superintendent Arik Jones explained that he and Mr. Cummins had a discussion about how many backflow preventors are not in service in the system. He cannot say one hundred percent what value that is. He would say probably ninety-nine percent of the services in the system have a backflow preventor. He noted that the backflow can fail or sometimes be removed inadvertently. However, the Water District does replace meters on a consistent basis,

and almost every time, a cross connection survey is done at the same time. As licensed operators, RWD is required to inspect residences to ensure the connections are compliant, not only to protect the system but the consumer as well. He agrees with Commissioner Marion that it's unknown at this time what the costs would be to dedicate a person to inspect seventeen hundred connections.

Mr. Cummins commented that he is just asking to have room in the budget for the potential to hire outside help to certify the backflow preventors now and not in a few years.

Mr. Borne noted that the District is working on asset management to get a handle on its assets. However, the backflow preventors are personal property. They're outside of that asset. He asked if there is a plan and a way to keep track of where they are located. Instead of waiting until next year for a warrant article, he suggested using the fund balance from the end of 2022 to start the work.

Commissioner Ditto explained there are licensed backflow preventors in the system that are permitted. There are also backflow preventors that are an integral part of the meters, which are untestable. He further explained the District has a program for monitoring the devices that are permitted.

Superintendent Jones explained that as required by the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as NH DES, the District has to have a cross connection control program in place. The District created by-laws that follow the regulations set forth by EPA, which were adopted by NH DES. He pointed out that the District has just recently revised its cross connection program. He further explained that cross connection is the connection of a potable water source to something that poses a potential risk to the system. In the District's cross connection program, residential check valves are required, which are non-testable. The device protects against backflow. The commercial properties and a few residential properties have testable devices. The District tests high and low hazard testable devices twice per year, except for irrigation which is tested upon installation.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion on the vote to amend Article #07 to increase the budget by \$50,000. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Motion failed.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion on Article #07 as written.

Mr. Borne asked how new developments and accessory dwelling units impact the budget and the cost of Rye water to the consumer.

Commissioner Ditto commented that he thinks it is minimal. He explained the increases in the budget are due to the hiring of another water operator and the purchase of a vehicle for that person. The increase is also due to the cost of living adjustment, which is twice as high this year

as it has been in the past. This year, the District will be working on a new building at the Garland pumphouse property for a single point of entry for the injection of chlorine into the system. Other increases to the budget are due to increases in energy rates for running the well pumps.

Superintendent Jones noted the cost of chlorine and treatment equipment also add to the increase of the budget.

Moderator Scott called for further discussion on Article #07. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Motion passed.

Moderator Scott announced the results of the election for commissioner:

Rosalie Lopresto – 93 votes

Julie Tucker – 63 votes

Rosalie Lopresto-Drakatos has been elected as commissioner for a term of three years.

Motion by Michael Bean to restrict reconsideration of Article #07. Seconded by Scott Marion.

Moderator Scott called for a vote on the motion to restrict reconsideration on Article #07.

Motion passed.

Article #08 To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

Briand Wade, 101 Grove Road, stated that he knows there have been discussions about bringing the Aquarion Water system into Rye Water. There's a great discrepancy between bills in Hampton and North Hampton where Aquarion runs. He knows someone who pays five hundred a month during the summer using Aquarion Water for their water bill. He asked if there will be discussions with Aquarion Water on price caps and other issues before bringing the company in.

Commissioner Ditto explained that in December Aquarion approached the Commissioners, unsolicited, about taking over the Rye Water District. The Commissioners entertained their discussion and listened. That's as far as it has gone. It hasn't gone any further down the road in regards to ending the Rye Water District or entering into any type of agreement. He further explained the Commissioners don't have the authority to dissolve the Rye Water District, as that decision belongs to the voters. As stated in RSA 52:21, if a village district chooses to dissolve, it requires a three-fifth vote of the voters in that district. He reiterated that the Commissioners have not pursued any type of agreement or gone into any type of economics associated. There hasn't been any movement in that area at all. If it were to go any further, the Commission would certainly bring all information before the residents in the District.

Carissa Magri, 354 Wallis Road, asked if there are line items for education or communication with the public. As a parent and a homeowner, she wants to be able to understand the things to look for as a preventative measure, not a reactive measure.

Commissioner Ditto explained that the 2023 budget includes funds to hire a public relations firm to deal with this specifically. Just recently, a level of service survey was conducted to find out what the residents in the District are interested in. It was quite evident during the boil water order that it's a necessity to have good dialogue and simple discussions to be able to explain to customers what is going on, not in technical terms. The goal of the District is to be more responsive and to have more information available in simplified language. The District is working on its ability to communicate with the public.

Commissioner Hickson pointed out that the Rye Water District has a website that is updated weekly.

Joan Tierney, 7 Acorn Acres, asked how Aquarion, based in North Hampton, take part of Rye.

Commissioner Ditto explained that the Rye Beach Precinct may have been served in the early 1900's by Aquarion before the Rye Water District was established, which was in 1948 to service the north end of Rye. The Rye Water District then extended down Route 1A and eventually up Wallis Road. It's really an evolution of how Rye was serviced by water. The Rye Beach and Jenness Beach areas were tied into North Hampton. His guess is this happened before the Rye Water District was even established.

Shawn Maxwell, 24 Park Ridge Ave., asked if they would be in a scenario where they could reduce the chlorine, or stop it altogether, if the District ever found the source of bacteria causing the boil order.

Commissioner Marion replied that even if they found the "smoking gun" that caused this past event, there could certainly be something else that could cause another contamination. Right now, Rye Water District is mandated by NH DES to chlorinate. If in fact the District goes down the road of a treatment plant, there will absolutely have to be chlorination.

Commissioner Ditto pointed out that most of the systems in New Hampshire are chlorinated. Not chlorinating is the exception to the rule. Once the chlorination is balanced, it will provide another level of security in the water that the consumer is receiving. There are a lot of contaminants that can get into the system. With chlorination, it can be assured that the water is sanitized to some extent with some degree of protection. He commented that if the District goes with a treatment plant to deal with the PFAS issue, it will require chlorinating as part of the treatment. Right now, it's an esthetic issue with the taste of the water and smell. With a single point of entry, there will be a better balance of chlorine flowing into the system and it will minimize the negative esthetics received from the chlorination activity. He reiterated that chlorinating provides a level of sanitation.

There was some discussion about how to sign up for Rye Water District alerts, which can be found on the District's website: Ryewaterdistrict.com

Moderator Scott called for further comments. Hearing no none, Moderator Scott called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Art Ditto to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Seconded by Joe Cummins.

Moderator Scott closed the Rye Water District Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna DeCotis
RWD Clerk

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

Arthur Ditto, Chair

Ralph Hickson

Scott Marion (via phone)

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent

Dyana Ledger, Business Manager

I. Call to Order

Chair Ditto called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. Annual Meeting

The Commissioners discussed the format and procedure for the annual meeting which is being held on March 25th, 10:00 a.m. at the Rye Junior High School.

III. Business

A. Irrigation Policy

The Commissioners reviewed the revisions to the Irrigation Policy for standalone irrigation meters. It was the consensus of the commission that meters used solely for irrigation would be charged the annual meter fee, based upon size as shown in Table 5 of the rate chart, plus usage. No gallons will be allotted with the annual meter charge. Usage will start at zero gallons and be priced per 1,000 gallons as shown in Table 6 for Standalone Irrigation System Usage Rates. The intent of the Standalone Irrigation Policy is to promote water conservation and provide better controls over water loss within the District.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adopt the Irrigation Policy as revised. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to add Tables 5 and 6 to the rate schedule for standalone irrigation system meter rates and irrigation usage rates. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

B. Cross Connection Control

At a previous meeting, the Commissioners had reviewed the Cross Connection Control document and agreed with the proposal.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adopt the new Cross Connection Policy. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

IV. Other Business

• RWD Credit Card

Business Manager Dyana Ledger requested an approval from the Commissioners to increase the charge limit on the Northeast Credit Card used for Rye Water District purchases. At this time, the credit card has a \$5,000 limit. During billing cycles, the card may not have enough purchase power to cover expenses for supplies related to billing.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the increase in the District's credit card limit to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 1:31 p.m. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
LEVEL OF SERVICE
WORKSHOP
Thursday, March 9, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.
Rye Junior High School**

The Rye Water District will be holding a Level of Service Workshop on Thursday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m., at the Rye Junior High on Washington Road. The workshop is being held to discuss the results of the Level of Service Survey and provide additional information to the public on the District's Level of Service goals and performance. Residents living in the District are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion.

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Tuesday, March 07, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

Arthur Ditto, Chair

Ralph Hickson

Scott Marion

Others Present:

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce

I. Call to Order

Chair Ditto called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. Work Session

The commissioners met with Chris Berg from Wright-Pierce to review the presentation prepared for the Level of Service Public Forum being held on Thursday, March 9th. They also discussed the flow and process for the forum.

III. Other Business

None

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 a.m. Seconded by Scott Marion.
All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

RYE WATER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

Commissioners Present:

Arthur Ditto, Chair
Ralph Hickson

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Cathy Hodson
Bob McGrath
Julie Tucker
Rosalie Drakatos

I. Call to Order

Chair Ditto called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- January 31, 2023

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of January 1, 2023 as presented.
Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

- February 1, 2023

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of February 1, 2023 as presented.
Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

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

Superintendent Jones presented the Superintendent's monthly report, pumping and data charts for the month of February.

- Water usage for February 2023 was up by approximately 2,000,000 gallons from the same time last year. The higher usage is due to leaks that have been detected and repaired, along with a higher customer use since Covid.
- Final revisions have been made to the point of entry project.
- Best Management Practice inspections are currently in progress.
- Monthly samples for March will be taken over the next week.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Superintendent's report for February. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

IV. Cash Flow Reports

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports for February. No issues or concerns were noted.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the cash flow reports for February. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

V. Correspondence

None

VI. Old Business

a. Cross Connection

The Commission reviewed the Cross Connection Program. The policy will be reviewed again and adopted at an upcoming meeting.

VII. New Business

The Commissioners discussed the format for the annual meeting, which is scheduled for March 25th, 10:00 a.m., at the Rye Junior High. The warrant was signed by the Commissioners and notarized. The Commissioners will post the warrant and proposed budget (MS-737) at three locations in town and at the location of the annual meeting.

VIII. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns noted.

IX. Other Business

None

Adjournment

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Arthur Ditto, Chair
Ralph Hickson**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

- January 4, 2023

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of January 4, 2023. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Updates

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce, met with the Commission to give a brief update on ongoing projects. There was discussion about the Level of Service Survey being sent out to the customers in the District. The survey is being done as part of the asset management project and is available online at this time. Printed postcards asking customers to respond to the survey will be sent by Wright-Pierce within the week. The date for responding to the survey is March 1st. The public forum is scheduled for March 9th at the Rye Junior High starting at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Berg also spoke briefly about the rate study being performed, which is also part of the asset management project.

IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for January

Superintendent Arik Jones reviewed his monthly report and pumping charts for the month of January.

- Pumping totals were up from this time last year by approximately 3,000,000 gallons.

- Best Management Practices (BMP) are being performed for potential contamination sources (PCS) that are within the Wellhead Protection Area.
- Work is continuing on the point of entry and chlorination building project with Wright-Pierce and DES.
- A main break was discovered on the 23rd at the intersection of Harbor Road and Ocean Boulevard, west side. BCK was onsite on January 24th for the repair of the main.
- Superintendent Jones visited Newmarket Water to observe their chlorination system, Acutab. It's recommended that the Rye Water District consider this same system.
- The office painting was completed over the past month with furnishing and files being put back into place.
- John Mallin from Wright-Pierce met with Superintendent Jones and Business Manager Ledger to review requested financial reports for the rate study being done for the asset management project. He also assessed previous asset management plan capital improvement projects and analyzed the present system for proposed capital improvement projects.
- Auditors were onsite to do a physical inventory inspection at the beginning of January. Greg Vaillancourt worked with the auditors and will be submitting required inventory reports to them. The auditors are scheduled to conduct the annual field auditing for financials starting on February 9th.

V. Cash Flow Reports for January

The Commissioner reviewed the financial reports for the month of January, along with the Treasurer's reports for the months of November and December. No issues or concerns were noted.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the cash flow reports for January. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Treasurer's reports for the months of November and December. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

None

VII. Old Business

a. Irrigation Policy

The Commissioners reviewed the final version of the RWD Irrigation Policy. No further changes were made and it was agreed to accept.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adopt the Rye Water District Irrigation Policy. Seconded by Art Ditto. Vote: 2-0

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No areas of concern were noted

X. Other Business

a. Budget Committee Update

The Rye Water District's proposed budget for 2023 was presented to the Budget Committee on January 31st. There were no issues or concerns with the budget and the Committee voted in favor of recommending the budget. Warrant articles appropriating funds for the Storage Tank Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, the Equipment and Buildings Capital Reserve Fund, and the System Replacement Capital Reserve Fund were also recommended by the Budget Committee. The Rye Water District's proposed budget and warrant articles will be presented and voted on by the District at the annual meeting on March 25th, 10:00 a.m., Rye Junior High.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

RYE WATER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

Commissioners Present:

Arthur Ditto, Chair
Ralph Hickson

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Rose Drakatos, Resident
Steven Borne, Resident

I. Call to Order

Chair Ditto called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Resident Rose Drakatos spoke to the Commissioners about her interest in possibly sitting as a commissioner for the District. She asked questions pertaining to processes followed by RWD.

II. Review of proposed 2023 budget for COLA

The Water District Commissioners met to review the revised 2023 budget to account for the increase in the COLA from 2.275% to 5.0%, which is in keeping with the proposed COLA for nonunion town employees. There were no issues or concerns with the revised budget.

Article #07 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million One Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$2,159,446) for general District operations and to defray Water District charges for the ensuing year. This article does not include appropriations contained in any other article addressed. (Majority Vote Required.)

Motion by Ralph Hickson to recommend Article #07. Seconded by Scott Marion. Vote: 3-0

Adjournment

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger

RYE WATER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

Commissioners Present:

**Arthur Ditto, Chair
Ralph Hickson**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager**

I. Call to Order

Chair Ditto called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

At 9:02 a.m., Ralph Hickson made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel. Seconded by Art Ditto.

Roll Call: Ralph Hickson – Aye; Art Ditto – Aye

At 9:35 a.m., the Commissioners came out of non-public session.

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to seal the minutes of the non-public session.
Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.**

III. Approval of Minutes

- December 7, 2022

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of December 7, 2022 as presented.
Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.**

IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for December

Superintendent Jones presented the Superintendent's monthly report, pumping and data charts for the month of December.

- The level of service survey is being prepared by Wright-Pierce. The intent is to have the survey results back in time to hold a public meeting prior to the RWD Annual Meeting.
- Pumping totals were up in the month of December in comparison to the previous year. The higher totals are due to flushing and refilling the Breakfast Hill Tank. Pumping totals for 2022 was just shy of 171,000,000 gallons.
- Daily reports have begun for CT values for chlorine induction to meet the State requirement of 4.43. Equipment has been received to monitor the chlorine residual and PH values as required by NH DES.
- Greg Vaillancourt has been working on end of year inventory for the upcoming audit. Auditors will be conducting a field inspection in the next couple weeks.
- A meeting with BCK was held to discuss the installation of the chlorination piping. The work is anticipated to start in February. A timeline for completion at the end of March was given.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Superintendent's report for December. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Reports

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports for December and the end of the year. No issues or concerns were noted.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the cash flow reports for December. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

VI. Treasurer's Reports

The Commissioners reviewed the Treasurer's reports for the months of September and October. No issues or concerns were noted.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Treasurer's report for September. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Treasurer's report for October. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

VII. Correspondence

a. Rye Civic League email

Chair Ditto noted that an email was received from the Rye Civic League. They are coordinating a ‘Civic Fest’ during the lunch period at the Deliberative Session on February 4th. Rye Civic League asked if the Rye Water District would like to have a table setup to provide residents with information during the ‘Civic Fest.’

The Commissioners agreed a table with information would be beneficial for residents of the Water District. There was some discussion in regards to informational materials that could be used at the table.

The Deliberative Session is being held on February 4th, starting at 9:00 a.m., at the Rye Junior High School. A snow date of February 11th has been scheduled.

b. Aquarion presentation

An email was received from Aquarion following up on the presentation they gave to the Commissioners regarding the acquisition of the Water District and further exploration of this proposal. The Commissioners agreed that the response to Aquarion should be that it has to be evaluated before moving the proposal further down the road. The first step is to get results from the survey to give an indication on whether the residents would be interested in pursuing this further. The Commissioners asked for a copy of the presentation to be sent to Attorney Frank Quinn for review.

VIII. Old Business

a. Grove Road Sampling – Update

Commissioner Hickson noted that money to cover additional sampling has been added to the Town’s proposed budget for 2023.

b. Draft Irrigation Policy – Planning Board Update

Chair Ditto noted that the Planning Board voted to use: *“Backflow preventers shall be required for all new expanded replacement and all altered irrigation systems.”* The word “altered” is going to be take out because the Building Inspector didn’t like that in the policy. At the end of the policy it will state: *“A licensed N.H. plumber shall apply for a permit from the building inspector who shall ensure such backflow preventors are appropriate for the proposed irrigation systems and will be installed in accordance with the N.H. Building Code, the local water company and established best water practices.”*

Chair Ditto pointed out that the backflow preventor might not be put in at the beginning of the installation of the irrigation system. It might be the last thing that is done. In order to get a permit, the plumber will have to come in to do the work. RWD won’t be able to get the policy

for irrigation systems out upfront. He noted that he will go to the Planning Board's public hearing to make the comment that this might not help RWD that much. He suggested that the Commissioners adopt the new irrigation policy for both residential and standalone systems, which have both been combined. He also suggested sending a notice to irrigation companies regarding the adoption of the policy for irrigation systems connected to the RWD system. The by-laws should also be updated. It should be advertised as best as possible that this is a new requirement for all future irrigation systems.

IX. New Business

There was some discussion about what should be included on the postcards being sent to residents regarding the level of service survey; such as, the annual meeting date. There was also some discussion about when the level of service public forum should be scheduled.

X. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns noted.

XI. Other Business

a. Proposed 2023 Budget

The Commissioners reviewed the final 2023 budget for the Water District. The Budget Committee will be reviewing the District's proposed budget at their meeting on January 31st.

b. Proposed 2023 Warrant Articles

The Commissioners reviewed the following warrant articles:

Article #04 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the District's existing Storage Tank Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established for the purpose of maintaining the water storage tanks. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion by Ralph Hickson to recommend Article #04. Seconded by Art Ditto. Vote: 2-0

Article #05 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the District's existing Equipment and Buildings Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of purchase, repair, modification, or replacement of equipment and buildings that support operations of the water distribution system. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion by Ralph Hickson to recommend Article #05. Seconded by Art Ditto. Vote: 2-0

Article #06 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the District's existing System Replacement Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of replacing or enlarging the distribution system. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion by Ralph Hickson to recommend Article #06. Seconded by Art Ditto. Vote: 2-0

Article #07 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$2,137,511) for general District operations and to defray Water District charges for the ensuing year. This article does not include appropriations contained in any other article addressed. (Majority Vote Required.)

Motion by Ralph Hickson to recommend Article #07. Seconded by Art Ditto. Vote: 2-0

Adjournment

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Seconded by Art Ditto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger