

**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