

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Rye Town Hall – 10 Central Road**

Commissioners Present:

**Scott Marion, Chair
Rosalie Lopresto, Vice-Chair
Tom Mack (via Zoom)**

Others Present on behalf of the District:

**Brian Goetz, District Administrator
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Arik Jones, Superintendent**

I. Call to Order

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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

At 8:33 a.m., Rosalie Lopresto moved to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel. Seconded by Tom Mack.

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

The Commission came out to non-public session at 9:16 a.m.

III. Approval of Minutes

- December 4th

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the public minutes of December 4, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the non-public minutes of December 4, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

- December 18th

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the public minutes of December 18, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the non-public minutes of December 18, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

IV. Administrator's Report

- **Treatment RFP and Piloting Update**

Administrator Goetz noted that the submission for proposals in response to the RFP for design engineering of the treatment facility closes on Friday, January 17th. He also noted that the District will be getting equipment from Portsmouth for the PFAS treatment piloting. The plan is once the engineering firm is onboard, the firm will work in concert with RWD as the pilot proceeds. The review team for the engineering proposals will be Brian Goetz, Arik Jones, Art Ditto, Tom Mack, and Al Pratt (Portsmouth). The firms will be narrowed down to the top two or three firms with interviews being held in February. After that time, the review team's recommended firm will be presented to the Commission.

- **West Road Well Permitting Proposal**

Wright-Pierce has submitted a draft of their recommendations for moving forward with the permitting of the well on West Road. It's anticipated that the District could have a 300 gallon-per-minute well at that site, which is similar to the Bailey Well. The scope of work requires a preliminary report for DES with a significant amount of field work and pump testing for ten days, which will require monitoring of adjacent wells. Approval will be needed from DES on how the tests will be run by the District. The permitting process is very involved and will probably be a two year process. The proposal from Wright-Pierce is for \$380,000 for the drilling, field work, submittals, and public hearings.

Administrator Goetz commented that the proposal is what was expected and there are legitimate reasons to stay with the current consultant on this project. The Commission agreed.

- **Rye Master Plan Comments**

Administrator Goetz noted that the Seacoast Drinking Water Commission will be holding their next meeting on February 21st. The emergency interconnection study continues, which he made note of as part of the Master Plan review with regard to the District's contingencies and plans. The District will be moving forward with the pump upgrades at the office booster station for the interconnection with Portsmouth. The Planning Board will be holding a meeting to review the Master Plan on January 28th, 6:00 p.m. at the Library.

The Commissioners have reviewed the Master Plan update and have made comments, which will be sent to Administrator Goetz to forward to the Planning Board.

- **Strawberry Banke’s “Water Has a Memory” Exhibit and Water Efficiency Component**

Administrator Goetz spoke about Strawberry Banke’s “Water Has a Memory” Exhibit, which addresses the impacts of sea-level rise. The exhibit also addresses water systems, best management practices for stormwater, and water efficiency. Administrator Goetz has been working with the exhibit for the past five years and would like to continue as a representative from the Rye Water District.

There was some discussion about the time involved and how this project can benefit the District.

V. Superintendent's Report and Pumping Data

Superintendent Jones gave a quick update on the pumping totals for the month of December. The totals are in line with previous pumping data for this time of year. He reported that the water operators are visiting Newmarket’s well site to review their chlorination process with the Accu-tab machine.

VI. Business

a. Billing System Update Transition

- Potential to shift to quarterly billing
- Potential rate adjustments

Administrator Goetz noted that he is still reviewing the District’s rates and billing structure. He will be making a recommendation to the Commissioners sometime this year on rates and structure for consideration, most likely for the next budget season.

VII. Other Business

a. Public Hearing date for LSLI Warrant Article: Dates 1/29 to 3/14

The Commission set the public hearing date for Thursday, January 30th, 6:00 p.m., for the warrant article being presented at the District’s annual meeting for funding to comply with EPA’s new Lead and Copper Rule Revision. Business Administrator Ledger will reach out to the Library or RJH to reserve meeting space.

VIII. 2025 Budget Work Session

The Commission reviewed the proposed operating budget for 2025 and discussed possible warrant articles for the annual meeting. There was discussion about the well permitting project and how to fund the work. It was agreed to use the unassigned fund balance to fund that project, which will be put forth in a warrant article. It was also agreed to add funds to three of the capital reserve funds, which will also come from the unassigned fund balance. At this time, the District

has an unassigned fund balance of \$551,709. Funding these articles would bring the unassigned fund balance down to the DRA recommended minimum of just over 5%. The Commission will be voting on the proposed budget and warrant articles at their next meeting on January 28th.

Adjournment

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Dyana F Ledger