

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> work session. It was agreed to not hold a work session on that date, as there is another work session scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**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