

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, December 4, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
Rye Town Hall**

Commissioners Present:

**Scott Marion, Chair
Rosalie Lopresto, Vice-Chair
Tom Mack**

Others Present on behalf of the District:

**Brian Goetz, District Administrator
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Arik Jones, Superintendent
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce**

I. Call to Order

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- November 4th

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the minutes of November 4, 2024. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

- November 21st

Motion by Tom Mack to approve the minutes of November 21, 2024. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

- November 21 – Non-Public

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the non-public minutes of November 21, 2024. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

III. Brown Property Update

District Administrator Brian Goetz gave an update on the ongoing investigation work on the Brown property. The pump test data looks promising with pumping at about 225/250 gallons per minute. Water quality samples were pulled, and the initial results look favorable with PFAS showing non-detect and other volatiles showing non-detect or below detection. Iron and manganese levels are comparable to the Bailey Brook well and the PH level is very good. It was noted that this is just the first round of sampling and information can change as the process moves forward.

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce, noted that he will be providing the District with a report on the water quality information, along with a preliminary pump test report that will also be submitted to DES. The next step in the process would be for the District to decide if they'd like to move forward with the permitting process. Mr. Berg also noted that he will work on developing a budget for the next phase of drilling and well development for next year's budget.

It was agreed that a letter will be sent to the Conservation Commission giving them an update, which will also be sent to the Select Board.

IV. Administrator's Report

Administrator Goetz reviewed his report for the month of November.

- Service Line Inventory Project: DES is currently reviewing the District's submittals and may require additional data. The District's website has been updated to provide water service line inventory information to customers. Letters were sent to the property owners for the unknown lines. Four people inquired about having their water tested, which is being paid for by the State. At this time, three property owners have had their water tested and the results have recently been received. Free testing to property owners will continue to be offered until the State says otherwise. Wright-Pierce will be working on the environmental review as part of the verification process for the unknown lines. Wright-Pierce is also working on the SRF loan application for funds that will be used to identify those unknown lines. A warrant article for the SRF funding, with a 71% forgiveness component, will be presented to voters at the March meeting.
- Central Treatment Plant Design: The RFP was posted, and direct contacts have been made with prospective engineers. A preproposal meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 10:00 a.m. at the Garland site. Proposals from engineers are due January 17th and interviews with the top three engineering firms will be scheduled for February with the review team.
- Administrator Goetz met with Town Administrator Matt Scruton to discuss future developer requests for water service. Information from the District is being updated to make expectations clear as to what is expected from developers.
- Rye continues to be in a severe drought condition.

- Updates continue on the District’s website.
- Administrator Goetz contacted Dave Fox from Raftelis regarding the study that was done on the District’s rates as part of the Asset Management Grant project. It’s anticipated that more work will be needed on the overall rate structure moving forward to account for the upcoming central treatment plant.
- Work continues on the updates to the District’s policies and procedures, which will be brought to the Commission as they are ready for review and adoption.
- Seacoast Drinking Water Commission held a meeting which discussed Rye’s interconnection with Portsmouth and the possibility of further interconnections with Aquarion.

V. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Arik Jones presented his report for the month of November.

- The usage for November is similar to the same timeframe last year. The total usage was just under 7.5 million gallons. The average daily usage was 249,000 gallons, which is at the base of what the system uses.
- The water operators are working on winterizing fire hydrants.
- The electrical upgrade project for Bailey and Cedar is almost complete. Final connection for the VFD is being made on Thursday and both wells should be back online by Friday.

VI. Business

a. Monthly Financial Review – Treasurer’s Report

Business Manager Dyana Ledger submitted the expenditure report for the month of November for review, along with the Treasurer’s financial reports. There were no concerns noted. There was a brief discussion about the proposed 2025 budget. As the current year comes to a close, further revisions will be made to the budget and presented to the Commissioners at a future meeting. The District’s proposed budget will be reviewed by the Budget Committee at their meeting scheduled at the end of January.

b. Right-to-Know Policy

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed Right-to-Know Policy submitted by Administrator Goetz. A minor spelling error was noted on page 2.

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to adopt the Right-to-Know Policy with the correction as noted. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

VII. Other Business

a. Annual Meeting Date

There was discussion about the annual meeting date for 2025. It was noted that the District's by-laws state that the meeting will be held the last Saturday of March. The meeting date for 2025 was set for Saturday, March 29th.

At 11:19 a.m., Rosalie Lopresto moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91:A-3, II (I) Legal. Seconded by Tom Mack.

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

The Commission came out of non-public session at 11:34 a.m.

Motion by Tom Mack to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. Roll Call: Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Tom Mack – Aye; Scott Marion – Aye

Adjournment

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Dyana F Ledger