

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
February 5, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
RWD Office: 60 Sagamore Road**

In Attendance:

Art Ditto, Commission Chair
Ralph Hickson, Commissioner
Tom Clifford, Commissioner

Others Present:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Selectman Phil Winslow
Chris Berg, Wright Pierce Engineering

Present from NH DES: Michael Unger, Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Project Management; Rick Skarinka, Drinking Water Bureau; and Drew Hoffman, Engineer and Project Manager for the Coakley Landfill Superfund Site, Waste Management Division

I. Call to Order

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

II. Discussion with NH DES: Mike Unger, Rick Skarinka & Drew Hoffman

The Commissioners met with NH DES to discuss current and future projects of the Rye Water District.

- **Process, schedule and funding requirements for Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund projects**

The Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund was created by the State Legislature and is a similar program to the State Revolving Fund. The funds are strictly State money so there is no federal requirements or restrictions. The State Legislative Advisory Commission voted to approve the funding of two proposed projects for the District. The funding will be used for the rehabilitation of the Garland Road pump house, in the amount of \$800,000., and for a water main replacement on Wallis Road, in the amount of \$315,000. The District is working on a final application pending voter approval at the District's Annual Meeting in March. The final application is due May 1st. The intent is to start the projects in the fall of 2020. A public hearing on the projects is being held on February 19th at the Rye Public Library.

Chris Berg, Wright Pierce, summarized the items to be completed at the pumphouse, which includes electrical and mechanical upgrades. The Wallis Road main replacement is for pipe that has been in the ground for sixty years that has had multiple failures and corrosion issues. He will be working on an environmental review for the Wallis Road project, as it is in a tidal area. He will also be working on the final application for the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. Once that is submitted, the funding process will take about two to three months.

- **Cedar Run replacement well status**

Superintendent Arik Jones gave an update on the status of the Cedar Run well replacement. Tree work and road construction is currently in progress to allow for access to the drill sites. Drilling on the proposed site is planned for the third week in February. The high iron and manganese levels in the Cedar Run well is driving the need for a replacement well.

Rick Skarinka, NH DES, reviewed past testing results for the Cedar Run well. He noted that manganese is now a concern at the federal level. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a health advisory for manganese of .3mg per liter. NH DES is reviewing this new information and working on it along with other contaminants. DES will probably be making a decision within a year on what action should be taken and an advisory level will be developed. Right now, the advisory level is .84mg., which is not a maximum contaminant level. If the State adopts .3mg., this would mean that if there was a source that was active above that number a “Do Not Drink” public notice would need to be issued. He noted this is not something that has been adopted by the State at this time. It is something that will be coming out within the next couple of years and will be an issue across the State. He pointed out that iron and manganese have been around for decades, as they are naturally occurring. The emerging contaminants (PFAS) are drawing the public’s attention right now, especially along the Seacoast.

There was some discussion on the possibility of funding and grants for addressing some of these issues.

Chair Ditto noted that the Water District has been tracking iron and manganese for a few years. At some point, the numbers for the Cedar Run well increased so something must have happened to make it jump up. An investigation of the well found it is highly fractured near the surface of the bedrock and that is where the majority of the water is coming from for that particular well. This is probably where the iron and manganese are coming from, along with detects of PFAS which has also been tracked over the past two to three years. The Cedar Run Well was taken offline in September 2018 because of the water quality issues. The District has been working towards a solution since that time.

There was some review of the reports for iron and manganese levels over the past few years.

Mr. Skarinka commended the District for being proactive and continuing to work on the replacement of the well.

The goal of the District is to have a replacement well online by the end of this year.

- **Breakfast Hill status**

The City of Portsmouth approached the Water District Commissioners in 2019 about the possibility of providing Rye Water to Greenland homes, through Breakfast Hill extending down to Post Road, through Portsmouth’s water service. Currently, Rye supplies water to Portsmouth for ten homes and the church near Breakfast Hill and this would be an extension of that water line. This is the only agreement that Rye has with Portsmouth and there is nothing in that to allow for further extension of the line without approval

from the constituents of Rye Water District. The Water District Commissioners have not had any further discussion with Portsmouth about this proposal; however, there is concern with regards to the capacity and ability to provide the water given the current status of the Cedar Run well. At this time, the Commissioners agreed that the District would probably not be able to provide the water. Further research and information would be needed in order to make a solid decision.

- **Iron & Manganese Water Treatment Plant status and plans**

There was discussion on when the Water District will move forward with a water treatment plant. It was noted that what would trigger a treatment plant would be the will of the citizens living in the District or if it became a compliant issue. At this time, the District has a design for a treatment plant ready to be implemented when needed. Since there is no issue of compliance currently, the Commissioners will continue to monitor the water testing results and keep the water treatment plant discussion open.

- **Garland Well monitoring and potential contamination sources (Rye Landfill)**

The District has been monitoring PFAS at the Garland well since April 2016. They have been tested on a monthly basis since July 2017. Dioxane is tested once or twice a year, as it has not been an issue, and will continue to be monitored annually. The monthly testing will also continue and updated results may be viewed on the Town and the Rye Water District websites.

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

Superintendent Jones gave an update to the Commissioners for the month of January.

- The bacteria tests have been taken but results have not yet been received.
- There were no abnormalities in the pumping data.
- The bridge is in for the well drilling site. Tree work will be completed in the next few days and the road will be completed in the next few weeks. Drilling is scheduled for the end of February. There are four potential water locations being drilled with a fifth drilling for well monitoring.

The Commissioners did not have any issues with the monthly reporting and pumping/data reports.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the superintendent's report. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.

IV. Review minutes from January

- January 8, 2020

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020 as written. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.

- January 15, 2020

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of January 15, 2020 as written. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.

V. Correspondence

- None

VI. Treasurer's Report – Last part of 2019

The Commissioners reviewed the treasurer's reports for September, October, November and December. No concerns were noted.

Motion by Tom Clifford to accept the treasurer's reports for September, October, November and December. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

VII. Cash Flow Reports – January

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports for the month of January. No concerns were noted.

Motion by Tom Clifford to accept the cash flow report for January. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

VIII. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

There were no applications before the Board of Adjustment or the Planning Board in the month of January that would be of interest or concern for the Water District.

IX. Old Business

- **Budget Committee Update**

The Water District's proposed 2020 Budget was presented to the Budget Committee on February 4th. There were no issues or concerns from the committee and they voted to recommend the District's budget as presented. The District will vote on the budget at the annual meeting, which will be held on March 28, 2020, 10:00 a.m., Rye Junior High.

X. New Business

- Chair Ditto has submitted an article for the Town's spring newsletter.
- Superintendent Jones noted that a resident spoke to him about the property at 701 South Road which is not within the Rye Water District Precinct but is being taxed as such. There are also other properties in this area that are under the same situation. He also noted that the regulations state that the property must be within 600ft of a hydrant in order for it to be considered in the District and these are not.

There was some discussion on the proper procedure for taking those properties out of the District. Further information on why those properties were voted into the District may be needed. Superintendent Jones will follow up with the Tax Assessor's Office.

XI. Other Business

- A public hearing for the Garland Road pumphouse upgrade and the Wallis Road main replacement is scheduled for February 19th, 6:00 p.m., Rye Junior High. The meeting will be noticed in the Portsmouth Herald, at the Rye Town Hall and on both websites for the Town and the District.
- Chair Ditto spoke about the possibility of holding a public informational meeting to discuss items of interest with the residents; such as the PFAS sampling and whether a water treatment plant is supported regardless of compliance issues. This could be linked to the asset management plan as part of public outreach and community relations.

Adjournment

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 11:48 p.m. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger