

**RYE WATER DISTRICT  
MEETING  
March 4, 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  
Residents: Joe Cummins, Melanie Cummins, Steve Borne

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Superintendent Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Date Report, and Bacteria Tests for February**

Superintendent Arik Jones gave an update to the Commissioners for the month of February:

- The pumping totals show that usage is right on track with last year's numbers.
- Bacteria samples have come back clean for the month of February.
- He has been working on the gallons pumped to gallons billed report. At the start of the process, it was showing that the District had a loss of 14.4% for unaccounted water. After working with the billing software company and making necessary adjustments, the percentage was brought down to .8% for unaccounted water, which represents 1,000,084 gallons.
- The road work for the new well site investigation has been completed. Testing for three possible locations has begun and will continue through the week.

**Motion by Tom Clifford to accept the Superintendent's Report for the month of February. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

### **III. Discussion: Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road**

**Joe Cummins and Melanie Cummins, 990 Washington Road,** met with the Commissioners to discuss concerns with the water usage reported on their bill for their property on Washington Road.

The water usage history since 2015 was reviewed. The usage was also reviewed by individual reading dates and average gallons of usage per day.

Mr. Cummins noted his concern is with the reading from Fall 2019 and does not feel the number reflects the true usage. His concern is that the meter is not reading correctly.

Superintendent Jones stated that he looks at gallons per day usage. He noted that the meter has been read three times since Mr. Cummins has expressed concerns on his usage. The average gallons per day is 221gal for the dates of 12/19/2019 to 3/03/2020. In early 2019, the average gallons per day was running 238gal and previous to that it was about the same. He noted that the water usage is very consistent, which shows that the meter is tracking correctly because the average gallons per minute start matching up to a very consistent amount of usage. He also noted that the District keeps track of daily weather conditions. In 2019, there was a fair amount of rain over the course of the summer. In September, there was a very limited amount of rain and water usage increased over that period of time. He explained to Mr. Cummins that the difference with his bill for 2019 is that the property normally goes into an overage (above 50k gallons) in June; however, that did not happen until September which would also cause an overage for December's billing. Normally, the bill would be bigger in September because of the overage starting in June; however, the big bill did not come until December because the usage was reflected in the latter part of the year.

Mr. Cummins also spoke with the Commissioners about his concern with not having the ability to read his meter, as it is located in a meter pit at the end of his driveway and he feels it is not easily accessible. He expressed his desire to have a meter which he could access to keep track of water usage.

There was discussion on ways the meter could be read from the meter pit. Superintendent Jones agreed to meet with Mr. Cummins to discuss the meter at his property and ways in which residents are able to monitor their usage. After a long discussion with Mr. Cummins and review of the account, the Commissioners concurred that the meter readings reflected in billing were correct and the water was ultimately used at the property. They also agreed that any adjustment to the bill would not be appropriate in this case.

### **IV. Public Input**

**Steve Borne, 431 Wallis Road,** spoke with the Commissioners regarding the warrant articles being presented at the District's annual meeting for the rehab of the Garland Well site and for the water main replacement for Wallis Road/Ocean Blvd to Wallis Road/Odiorne Drive. He also

expressed his thoughts about how the District can provide better communication and education to the residents of the Water District.

**V. Approval of Minutes**  
• February 5<sup>th</sup>

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the minutes of February 5, 2020 as presented.  
Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.**

- February 19<sup>th</sup>

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing of February 19, 2020. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.**

**VI. Correspondence**

**a. Cybersecurity Assessment**

A free cybersecurity assessment is available to the District through the EPA. It was agreed that Superintendent Jones should follow up on this.

**b. Farm Bill & Source Water Protection Meeting**

Hosted by American Water Works Association and New England Water Works Association. The meeting is being held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00a.m., 54 Concord Street in Concord, and will provide an opportunity to address source water protection challenges.

**c. Rye Day Event**

The Commissioners received an email from the Rye Day Committee regarding Rye Day, which is planned for Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Rye Day will kick off with a parade in Rye Center followed by events at Parsons Field. The Rye Water District is invited to participate in the event by showcasing what they do, share information and engage with the public. The Commissioners agreed that this will be a great event and the Water District should participate.

- d. Rye Energy Commission is holding a revision seminar on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30p.m., Rye Town Hall. This meeting is with the select board before the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting.**

**VII. Cash Flow Report – February**

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow report for February and did not have any issues.

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

**VIII. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes**

- There were no areas of concern for the Water District in the February minutes for the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment.

**IX. Old Business**

**e. Seacoast Drinking Water Commission**

Chair Ditto noted that the recent Seacoast Drinking Water Commission Meeting was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Commission reviewed a letter that was being sent to the Drinking Water Trust Fund in support of the Portsmouth and Dover interconnection with a pipe across Dover Point along the bike path. It is felt that the interconnection would connect four systems above the Dover area and eight systems south of the bridge. The Commission also reviewed Bills that are before the Legislature relative to water. They discussed the previous Commission's recommendations and what steps to take next.

**X. New Business**

- *None*

**XI. Other Business**

**f. Commissioners Report for Annual Meeting**

The report has been started and will be completed within the next week. A draft will be emailed to the Commissioners for input.

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger

