



Rye Water District
Commission Minutes
May 20, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Business Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:33 by Chair Marion.

Attendees: Scott Marion – Chair, Tom Mack – Vice Chair, Danna Truslow – Commissioner, Brian Goetz – Administrator, Dyana Ledger – Business Manager, Joe Cummins – resident and customer

Meeting Minute Approval – May 6, 2026

Vice Chair Mack motioned to approve the minutes of May 6, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Truslow. Vote, all in favor.

Customer Comment

Chair Marion recognized customer Joe Cummins. Mr. Cummins expressed his unhappiness with the changes in the rates and requested additional information. Business Manager Ledger stated that she would be able to provide that information. Chair Marion and Administrator Goetz talked about the process for the rate setting and that rates would continue to be adjusted over the next few years in anticipation of paying back the costs of the loan for the new water treatment facility. Chair Marion said that there would be opportunities for public input as it progresses.

Business Manager's Update

- Financials

Business Manager went over current financials. Everything is in order and we are only at the beginning of the year as far as expenses, so updates will occur more frequently as we approach the 2027 budget preparation.

- Billing System Transition

Business Manager Ledger and Administrator Goetz said that the transition to gWorks' billing platform continues to involve a lot of staff time and effort to get familiar with the system and work with gWorks tech support to address issues found in the software. Customers seem to be signing up for the online portal but are not happy with the 4% fees for those transactions. Administrator Goetz said that he has a number of items, including that issue, that he has brought up with gWorks and will report back to the commissioners about that progress.

- Reserve Fund Votes

- i. Vehicle Purchase – Utilize funds from the Equipment & Buildings (Capital Reserve) fund to purchase the following:

- 1. \$58,485 to McFarlan Ford Sales, Inc. for F350 4x4 truck

- A motion was made by Vice Chair Mack to authorize the use of \$58,485 from the Equipment & Buildings Fund for the purchase of this vehicle. Commissioner Truslow seconded it. All in favor.**

2. \$31,473.90 to RGB, Inc. for chassis, body, lights and accessories for new truck

A motion was made by Vice Chair Mack to authorize the use of \$31,473.90 from the Equipment & Buildings Fund for the purchase of a chassis, body, lights and accessories for the new truck. Commissioner Truslow seconded it. All in favor.

- ii. Authorize the expenditure of up to \$200,000 from the Storage Tank Maintenance (Capital Reserve) fund for the Washington Road Tank Site Rehabilitation and Security Fence. To include \$8,821.08 paid to Nobis Engineering for engineering work already incurred.

After discussion, a motion was made by Vice Chair Mack to authorize the use of \$8,821.08 from the Storage Tank Maintenance fund for Nobis Engineering's work already incurred. Seconded by Commissioner Truslow. All in favor.

Further discussion with the commissioners and Administrator Goetz surrounded the bidding and use of the funds and how they could be authorized in the future up to the full cost of the project. Administrator Goetz said he would ask our legal counsel give us guidance on this matter.

Portsmouth Wholesale Rate Increase

Administrator Goetz reported that there has not been any official correspondence from Portsmouth regarding their proposed increase for wholesale water to the district.

Portsmouth Interconnection and request for additional water

Administrator Goetz went over a May 19, 2026 letter from the City of Portsmouth's Water Resources Director, Al Pratt, regarding follow-up to their request for additional water supply to serve a new subdivision on Breakfast Hill Road. The letter proposed that a firm limit on supply could be written into an agreement that would be bound on the new properties, much less than their earlier request. The City also said that the Coakley Landfill Group was willing to reimburse the district up to \$15,000 for costs to reimburse any district legal fees for drafting the agreement. Administrator Goetz mentioned that no legal agreement gets the district additional water to actually serve these properties and proposed an alternative approach – that the district wheel water through the current Portsmouth interconnection such that any new supply come from Portsmouth's system. He also said that the properties already served through the Rye interconnection to Portsmouth could be included as well, lowering the amount of water coming from Rye and going to properties on Breakfast Hill. The commissioners agreed with this concept. Administrator Goetz then said that his recommendation would be to utilize the \$15,000 for engineering analysis of how this could be accomplished and the impact it may have on the district. The commissioners agreed with this as well. Administrator Goetz said that he would communicate this to Portsmouth.

Aquarion Water Interconnection draft agreement

Administrator Goetz said that Aquarion has sent their edits to the district for the interconnection agreement. He also said that he then forwarded it on to the district's attorney for review and comment prior to bringing it forward to the whole commission.

Meeting recording policy

Administrator Goetz went over a draft policy for recording meetings. The commissioners agreed to review it and discuss it at an upcoming meeting with the district's legal counsel.

Administrator's Update

- Precipitation and Groundwater Levels – Seacoast Drinking Water Commission Meeting

Administrator Goetz went over the presentation and press release that went out to local news media regarding information from the Seacoast Drinking Water Commission's public drinking water systems regarding the effects of the current drought on their supplies.

- **Central Treatment Project**

The project's engineer continues to make progress with the design of the facilities. The operations center design should be completed by early summer for bidding in the fall. The treatment facility design should be completed by the beginning of 2027 for bidding in the spring. Piloting of biological treatment for iron and manganese removal will start soon.

- **Garland Backup Well**

The Garland Backup Well is slated to be drilled and installed this summer so that it is completed prior to the beginning of the construction of the treatment facility.

- **Cedar Run Well**

Nothing new to report. Waiting on the biological treatment pilot to further assess the next steps to take with this well.

- **West Road Well Permitting**

Administrator Goetz said that he expects to have a draft of the preliminary application for the well permit soon. He will provide additional information at the district's May 27, 2027 work session on water supply.

- **Tank Inspections – Haley Ward consultant**

Haley Ward's tank engineering specialist visited our tank sites and reviewed reports regarding their condition. He will provide a letter report on recommendations for the two tanks that may need painting in the future – Washington Road Tank #2 and the Breakfast Hill Tank. Given that the district will incur costs toward the painting of Washington Road Tank #1 for a few more years, all agreed that the best option would be to phase the work such that the next project would start when payment for Tank #1's work is complete. Administrator Goetz said that after we get the report, we will know how feasible that would be.

Other Business

Commissioner Truslow provided information about the ongoing work she has been doing with the Seacoast Drinking Water Commission to identify the needs and feasibility of having a regional facility to collect household hazardous waste. She said that though Rye and surrounding towns participate in collection days throughout the Seacoast, the convenience of a regional facility that could be open year-round would be quite beneficial to source water protection.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Mack at 10:15 am. Seconded by Commissioner Truslow. All in favor.

Upcoming Meetings:

- May 27, 2026 – 1:00 pm
- June 5, 2026 - 8:30 am
- June 19, 2026 – 8:30 am
- July 1, 2026 – 8:30 am

Rye Water District | 60 Sagamore Road, Rye, NH 03870 | RyeWaterDistrict.com