

**RYE WATER DISTRICT  
MEETING  
Wednesday, September 6, 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**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- August 2, 2023

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023 as written. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

**III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Update**

**Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering**, gave an update on RWD ongoing projects. Both of the sustainability grants were executed last month and are with DES for processing. Those will likely be completed over the next couple of months and Wright-Pierce will be able to move forward on those projects. At this time, the Water District has been approved for eleven million dollars in funding, through the State Revolving Fund, for the water treatment facility. He noted that there is one million dollars in principal forgiveness out of the funding for emergent contaminates. Ten percent of the ten million dollars in funding remaining is available as principal forgiveness, as well. For further funding, the District can look towards the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund with the annual application process coming up in October. The treatment plant is the type of project that the State would be very interested in funding. He pointed out that the District will be in a better position for funding if they can say the project has already been approved through a warrant article.

It was noted by Chair Hickson that all sources of funding have to be specified in the warrant article.

Commissioner Marion expressed concerns that having a commitment for bonding might negate the ability to find other sources of funding.

Mr. Berg replied that he doesn't believe so, but he will speak with Wright-Pierce's strategic funding specialist, who is working on funding and grant opportunities for the District.

There was some discussion about ways to fund the treatment facility. There was also discussion about the rate study, which is being done by Raftelis Corp with the final report being presented to the Commission within the next two months.

Mr. Berg noted that the letter for the water investigation project for the Brown property has been submitted to NRCS; however, he has not yet received a response. He will follow up on the status of the letter. The lead service line inventory project started last month and data collection is moving along.

#### **IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for August.**

Superintendent Jones reviewed his monthly report and pumping charts for the month of August:

- The pumping totals are down about eight million from last year at this time, due to the large amount of rain received this summer.
- The bacteria samples are being taken within the next few days.
- A preconstruction meeting was held for Wallis Road main replacement recently. The project will be starting again this month. An adjustment in the area for the project has been made. The plan is now to go up to Odiorne Drive, but not on the opposite side of the road as originally intended, and do the same trench replacement. A target completion date is set for the end of October.
- The point of entry building has been completed and is now in operation. There is an issue with a proper residual analyzation. The field operators are collecting data which is being analyzed by the technicians who are working on the issue, which should be resolved in the next few weeks.
- A leak detection was performed over the last month through a grant with DES. Only one leak was detected in the system; however, one that was not identified popped up on Berry Brook Lane. The leak detection work is being done by a third party hired by DES. It's unclear whether the work is as comprehensive as it could be.

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Superintendent's report for the month of July. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

## **V. Cash Flow Reports for August – Treasurer’s Report**

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow and expenditure reports for the month of August. There were no areas of concern noted by the Commissioners. They also reviewed the Treasurer’s report for the month of June with balancing sheets.

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Treasurer’s report for the month of June. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the cash flow reports for the month of August. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

## **VI. Correspondence**

- a. Aqueous Film Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation – Proposed Class Action PFAS Settlement  
*The mail received was noted by the Commissioner and a file will be started.*
- b. Follow up on email regarding Rye Master Plan update  
*Business Manager Dyana Ledger confirmed that she followed up on the email received in regards to the Rye Master Plan update.*

## **VII. Old Business**

### **a. Meter Replacement Program**

Business Manager Dyana Ledger gave a brief update on information she received from the Finance Director for Rye in regards to the question the Commission had about how to handle the expense presented by Superintendent Jones, at the last meeting, for a meter replacement program which would expense the meters over a three year period. It was advised by the Town’s Finance Director that this should be handled through a warrant article for the 2024 budget. The estimated cost for the meter replacement program is approximately \$330,000. Some of the costs could be covered from the Commission’s System Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, which can be used for replacement and expansion of the system. The Commissioners have the authority to expend from this fund.

There was discussion in regards to how to handle the warrant article for 2024. It was agreed that it might be best to include the expense in the budget and cover some of the cost from the capital reserve fund. The Commission will present a warrant article to add funds back to the capital reserve.

### **b. T-Mobile Lease Agreement**

The Commissioner briefly reviewed the final version of the T-Mobile lease agreement, which will begin in April 2024. There were no issues or concerns.

**Motion by Scott Marion to execute the T-Mobile Lease effective April 21, 2024 and to authorize Business Manager Dyana Ledger to digitally sign said agreement. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

**VIII. New Business**

**a. Thompson Landing Escrow**

A letter was received from Joe Coronati, engineer for the Thompson Landing Development, requesting release of escrow in the amount of \$15,000 being held by the Water District. The funds were being held in escrow for the purchase of an Aquarion water main along Route 1 in that area, which was proposed to be used to provide water to the Thompson Landing and Benchmark projects. Aquarion has determined that negotiations of the main would be difficult, as it would need to go through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). RWD has acquired the main under abandonment and has taken responsibility. A total of \$30,000 was collected for the main from both Thompson Landing and Benchmark. At this time, only Thompson Landing is requesting return of their portion of the escrow, as that project is complete. It's unknown when Benchmark will be moving forward with their project.

**Motion by Scott Marion to authorize the release of escrow funds to Thompson Landing in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

**IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes**

*No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.*

**X. Other Business**

- The Commissioners agreed to invite the Select Board to their work session on September 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the plans and possible funding for the treatment facility.

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 11:03 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger