

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Thursday, January 30, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Rye Junior High School, 501 Washington Road**

Commissioners Present: Chair Scott Marion, Vice-Chair Rosalie Lopresto, Tom Mack

Others Present on behalf of the District: Brian Goetz, District Administrator; Dyana Ledger, Business Manager; and Arik Jones, Superintendent

I. Public Hearing:

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 33:8a that the Commissioners of the Rye Water District will hold a public hearing to discuss plans to conduct an inventory, investigation, design, and/or replacement of the District's water service lines as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure compliance with EPA's new Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCCR) (the "Project"). A warrant article to authorize the funding for the project through a loan of not more than \$1,150,000 (with an anticipated forgiveness of up to 71%) from the New Hampshire Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund will be presented at the District's annual meeting on Saturday, March 29, 2025.

Article #03 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,150,000) gross budget, for the purpose of conducting an inventory, investigation, design, and/or replacement, of the District's water service lines as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure compliance with EPA's new Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) (the "Project"); and to authorize the District Commissioners to issue up to \$1,150,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and further to authorize the District Commissioners to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes, and to determine the dates, maturities, interest rates, and other details of such bonds or notes; and to further authorize the Commissioners to apply for, accept, and expend federal, state, or private grants or loans, or other aid that may become available to reduce the amount of bonds or notes issued or to pay debt service on the bonds or notes, and to participate in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund ("DWSRF") loan program; and to authorize the District Commissioners to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. It is anticipated that the District will receive up to 71% in principal forgiveness from the State Revolving Fund loan program. (3/5 Majority Ballot Vote Required).

At 6:00 p.m., Chair Marion called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing.

It was explained by Chair Marion that the Water District will be presenting a warrant article at the District's annual meeting on March 29th for the investigation, design, and/or replacement of the District's water service lines as required by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure compliance with the new Lead and Copper Rule. The new ruling requires the District to identify all service lines to ensure there are no lead pipes being used in the system. The District has been able to identify all service lines on the District's side and has verified that there are no lead pipes. The District has identified almost all of the service lines on the customers' side of the system, with two hundred and eleven lines that could not be identified. The EPA requires the District to visually inspect each of these unidentified lines for verification, which means actually digging up each line. This warrant article asks for authorization to fund this work through a State Revolving Fund loan from the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund of not more than \$1,150,000. It's anticipated that the District will receive loan forgiveness of up to 71% of the loan. Chair Marion assured the public that this new Lead and Copper Ruling applies to all water systems throughout the nation, and all must be in compliance within ten years.

Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road, asked if there is a way to verify the lines without actually digging up each one, such as using camera devices.

Chair Marion explained that EPA requires each line to be dug up for a visual verification. The Water District has strict guidelines to follow in verifying these lines through EPA.

RWD Administrator Brian Goetz gave a brief overview of the scope of work for the project. He also addressed questions from: **Deb White, 30 Lang Road; Ritchie White, 30 Lang Road; Tom King, 535 Wallis Road; and Michael Steinberg, 17 Sea Glass Lane.**

Art Ditto, 6 Fern Ave., spoke in support of the article.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Chair Marion closed the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

II. Other Business

David Purcell, 24 Sea Glass Lane, questioned the anticipated increase in water rates due to the construction of the upcoming central treatment facility. He also asked about the possibility of selling Rye Water District to Aquarion Water.

It was explained that the District is not considering a sale to Aquarion Water at this time. There was further discussion about the timeline of the water treatment facility and the possibility of a change in the District's rate structure in the future. The District is in the process of analyzing water usage rates and will have more information for the public in the near future.

Adjournment

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Dyana F Ledger