

## **Rye Water District Public Hearing**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

**Rye Junior High, 501 Washington Road**

In accordance with RSA 33:8a, the Commissioners of the Rye Water District held a public hearing to discuss plans for the replacement of 1,165ft of water main, from the intersection of Wallis Road and Odiorne Drive. A warrant article to authorize the funding of water main replacement through a loan of not more than \$852,000 from the New Hampshire Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund will be presented at the District's annual meeting on Saturday, March 26, 2022.

### **Warrant Article #02:**

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$852,000.00 (gross budget) for the Wallis Road Water Main Replacement, 1,165ft from the intersection of Wallis Road and Ocean Boulevard to the intersection of Wallis Road and Odiorne Drive, and all costs incidental thereto and connected therewith; and to authorize the issuance of not more than Eight Hundred Fifty- Two Thousand Dollars (\$852,000.00) of bonds and notes in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and to authorize the Rye Water District Commissioners to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and to authorize the Rye Water District Commissioners to expend the proceeds so raised to that stated purpose. This warrant article supersedes Warrant Article #04 passed by the voters at the Rye Water District Annual Meeting on July 11, 2020. A 3/5 ballot vote is required.

At 7:03 p.m., Chair Hickson opened the public hearing and introduced the Water District Commissioners; Tom Clifford, Art Ditto and Ralph Hickson. He turned the presentation over to Engineer Chris Berg from Wright-Pierce.

Chris Berg noted that the Wallis Road water main project will run from the intersection of Ocean Boulevard/Wallis Road up to Odiorne Drive. This area connects with three side roads; Parkridge Drive, Ocean View Avenue and Appledore Avenue. The water main in this area has burst a number of times and has an extensive break history. There's a lot of corrosive soils from tidal waters in that area. The water main will be replaced with HDPE pipe which is corrosion resistant. The main will be installed by directional drill under the two culverts in order to reduce pavement and environmental disturbances in the tidal area. The town is potentially replacing drainage in this area. There will be some road restoration at the back end of this project.

Mr. Berg explained that this project went through a bond hearing in 2020 for a lower amount of money. A warrant article was presented at Rye Water District's Annual Meeting that year and was passed by the voters. As the process continued, it was realized that the project would end up exceeding the costs approved by the warrant article. Due to the nature of construction, issues with Covid delays and increases in costs, the received bid in the spring of 2021 exceeded the

warrant article and the contractor would not hold the pricing. The project is now going back before the constituents to move through the process again. The total project cost is \$852,000. A significant construction contingency has been added. The major changes in the project include the DOT roadway restoration, as the paving requirements have changed. There's a significant amount of ledge that was identified in the design process. Material and labor costs are really the reason for the increase in the price of the project. He pointed out that there's still a base bid plus an alternate, so the project could potentially be "chopped up" if needed. However, the number being presented should be able to complete the entire project.

Mr. Berg noted that the project is out to bid currently. The bid opening will be within the next two weeks. It is anticipated that the award for this bid will be in April. Substantial completion is expected to be the end of November. Construction will not begin until the end of the summer season.

Chair Hickson opened to the public for questions or comments.

**John Murtagh, 33 Pollock Drive**, asked if there was any money carried over in the budget from when this was presented prior.

Commissioner Ditto noted that the bottom line for the cost of the project is what is being presented on the warrant. This project will be funded with an SRF Loan from the State. A revised application was submitted to the State to increase the amount.

Commissioner Clifford asked if the work is going to start after summer.

Mr. Berg explained that the way the contract is written is that if the construction company had 1,500ft of pipe and wanted to start immediately they could. However, there's a summer shutdown period from May 28<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup>.

No further comments or questions were heard.

At 7:15 p.m., Chair Hickson closed the public hearing.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion by Art Ditto to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Seconded by Tom Clifford. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger