

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING
June 24, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Teleconferencing**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Art Ditto, Commission Chair
Ralph Hickson, Commissioner
Tom Clifford, Commissioner

Members of the Public:

Arik Jones, Superintendent
John Murtagh, 33 Pollock Drive
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering on behalf of RWD

I. Call to Order

Chair Ditto called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

Statement by Art Ditto:

As Chair of the Rye Water District Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #929-205-6099 and password: 03870, or by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.us ID #820-1929-1284

Public notice has been provided to the public for the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the commission at: ryewaterdistrict.com.

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-828-2800 or email at: dyana.ryewater@comcast.net

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Roll call attendance of commissioners:

1. Tom Clifford
2. Ralph Hickson
3. Art Ditto

At 6:35 p.m., Chair Ditto opened the public hearing on the following Warrant Article #04, which will be presented to the voters at the Rye Water District Annual Meeting to be held on July 11, 2020 at Parsons Field.

- **To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$315,000.00 (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 Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$315,000.00) 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. A 2/3 ballot vote is required.**

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, gave a presentation on the scope of the project being proposed by the District. The Wallis Road main repair encompasses the area from Ocean Boulevard to Odiorne Drive, which is approximately 1150ft of water main. The main will be connected along Wallis Road with water extensions on Odiorne, Parkridge, Oceanview and Appledore. The reason for the project is to replace an 8” ductile iron main that was installed in the 70’s, in an area where the soils are very corrosive. There have been several failures in this area with mains of the same material and vintage. The intent is to be proactive in managing the District’s infrastructure, as repairing a main as it breaks is unpredictable and costly for the residents.

The water main will be replaced with Polyethylene plastic pipe. This is the same type of material that was recently used for a project on Ocean Boulevard. The water main will be installed by boring under the ground, as opposed to open excavation trench work, which will help minimize pavement disturbance and environmental impacts through this area. If the warrant article is approved in March at the District’s annual meeting, the project will be funded through the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund with a final application deadline of June 1st. The project will require surveying and design work to be completed this summer/fall. The project will go out to bid over the winter with construction anticipated to start in the spring for a completion prior to summer season in 2021. The District has been approved for a loan in the amount of \$315,000 through the Trust Fund. Some additional costs will be covered by the Water District with a total cost of \$375,000 for the project.

Chair Ditto opened to the public for questions or comments.

Hearing none, the public hearing for the Wallis Road main replacement was closed at 6:45 p.m.

At 6:45 p.m., Chair Ditto opened the public hearing for Warrant Article #03, which will also be presented to the voters at the District's annual meeting.

- **To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$800,000.00 (gross budget) for the rehab of the Garland Road Pump Station and all costs incidental thereto and connected therewith: and to authorize the issuance of not more than Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00) 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. A 2/3 ballot vote is required.**

Mr. Berg continued his presentation to explain the project for the Garland Road pump house. The Garland Road pump station was constructed in 1976. Most of the electrical, process and building components are original. On a building like this that is critical to supporting the water needs of the Town of Rye, those things need to be replaced from time to time. This project is a matter of upgrading and replacing aging infrastructure. The electrical equipment is at end of life and the pump is declining in service. There is some site work that is required and energy/heating efficiencies need to be improved as well. It was noted that there is a pit below grade with confined space entry that has flooded. The flooding has been taken care of but that will continue to be an issue in the future if it is not fixed. Multiple electrical components have failed over the years. A lot of those original components are no longer manufactured, so getting parts for repairs has become a real issue.

Because this is a great source of water for the community, it is important to make sure this system is viable and is operating at its best capacity. The goal is to improve the overall operations of the facility, improve energy efficiencies and address any safety hazards that may be a concern. The proposed upgrades include the replacement of the electrical and implementation systems; replacement of pump and piping; improvement of doors and windows; site improvements; fencing and paving. All the improvements within the facility will be compliant with the potential future water treatment facility.

If the warrant article is approved at the March meeting, bids will be solicited for the construction. Construction submittals and the release of equipment will be done over the summer. The construction will begin in the fall so the facility can be back up and operational for the 2021 summer season. The project will be funded through an \$800,000 loan from the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund with another \$80,000 being covered by the District, for a total cost of \$880,000.

Chair Ditto opened to the public for comments or questions.

John Murtagh, 33 Pollock Drive, asked if there are any building security changes that will be made during this upgrade.

Mr. Berg explained there are intrusion alarms and door sensors that will be put in place. The current design plans do not include video surveillance.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Ditto closed the public hearing for the Garland Road pump house upgrade at 6:55 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, **Ralph Hickson made a motion to adjourn at 6:56 p.m. Seconded by Tom Clifford.**

**Roll Call: Tom Clifford – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Art Ditto – Yes
Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger