

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Warner Village Water District Commissioners
At 9:00 A.M. on
November 27, 2017 at the Treatment Plant

Present: Peter Newman, Peter Savlen and Dan Lavoie, Commissioners; Chuck Come, Superintendent; Ray Martin, Administrative Assistant; and Jim McLaughlin, Clerk.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held on November 13, 2017 were approved as submitted.

North Village Road

Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report

Chuck commented that the treatment plant process is in good shape.

Generator – Chuck advised that his best estimate for a generator replacement is \$30,000, using propane instead of diesel fuel. A propane fueled generator is less expensive to purchase and more economical to operate and maintain. He is still working on sizing issues with company reps, with Kohler as the preferred option. Dan Levoie provided another contact for Chuck to touch base with. On the question of timing for this expenditure, Ray will contact DRA regarding making a move prior to the annual meeting, since this is an emergency situation. Chuck said that renting a generator will be very expensive for the number of months between now and March, if we have to wait. Ray said that financing a new generator would cost about \$2,500 per year on a 15-year note at 4% interest.

Concerning the problem with the automatic transfer switch, Chuck reported that the installer has promised that he will come and make an adjustment to the switch to allow it to operate normally with the current generator.

Control Panels – Chuck said he has met with another contractor about the headworks control panel problem and will be receiving cost estimates. He also expressed concern for the need to upgrade the water plant's control panel. Chuck said that variable speed drives are also a need that the District should address for the headworks.

Wells – Chuck reported the wells are working satisfactorily. He said he has been looking back at old records on the wells and found that ill-advised well pump rates may have contributed to problems experienced then, i.e., pumping at high rates when the river is low.

Administrator's Report

Hydrants – Ray handed out the 2008 agreement, amending the original 1999 agreement between the District and Town regarding ownership and maintenance of the precinct's hydrants. As a follow-up to the discussion at the Commissioners' last meeting, Ray handed out a draft revision of the agreement that would transfer ownership and maintenance from the Town back to the District. Under this proposal the Town would pay the District \$350 per hydrant annually for hydrant maintenance and replacement of a minimum of two hydrants per year. This amounts to \$16,800 to cover the 48 hydrants, payable quarterly. The Town would be relieved of the cost of carrying out its maintenance and replacement responsibilities under the current arrangement. The District would be in total control of this important component of the water supply system. Winter plowing would be easier for the District since this is its slow season. The revenue coming from the Town would allow the District to eventually finance the purchase of a backhoe that it could use to do the hydrant replacement work.

Ray said he had spoken Jim Bingham and he seemed receptive to the proposal. He also talked to

Tim Allen who was supportive. Ray will set up a meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss this matter further with the goal of incorporating it into next year's budgets.

Groundwater Injection Project – Ray reported that he is waiting for Brackett Scheffy to deliver a draft purchase and sales agreement for purchase of the parcel intended to be the site of this project. Ray also reported that he has discussed with the Town the idea of placing an easement on the abutting parcel to allow District access over this land to service the planned groundwater installation. Ray said he has been recommending that the Town keep this parcel in public ownership. He said in his talk with the Five Rivers Conservation Trust about financial help in acquiring its parcel, they would be interested in participating if both parcels were in the mix. More to come. Ray said that any final action will have to wait for the annual meeting. Potential funding sources for this project were discussed, including the State Revolving Fund, CDBG and Rural Development.

Solar Array – Ray reported that Harmony Solar has sent a \$2,691 check for the first quarters of operation, representing the carbon credit payment for this period. Ray said Harmony may also be on the hook for two additional quarters, since Norwood Energy, the new agent in the carbon credit game, would not be able to negotiate for that time period. There was understanding that the value of these carbon credits has been in decline over the past year and may dip further. Ray said that the solar array makes economic sense for the District even if the carbon credits go away.

Financial Reports – Ray distributed the revenue and expense reports for the months of September and October. Ray said that overall expenses have been kept below the budget, but that revenues have not kept up enough, even with the rate increase approved in March. He said that the final expenses should come in at about \$406,000, with revenues anticipated to be about \$5,000 lower. This shortfall can be taken out of surplus.

Ray said that the two employees will receive a 2 percent raise next year.

North Village Road – Peter Savlen suggested that the Commissioners write a letter to the PUC stating that: inasmuch as the District has complied with all of the PUC and DES requirements in removing the North Village Road properties from its franchise area, and considering the excessive length of time that the District has waited for a PUC response, the District considers the PUC approval to have been granted. The Commissioners agreed to this action and asked ray to prepare the letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

The next Commissioners meeting: December 11, 2017 at 9 A.M.

Recorded by Jim McLaughlin, Clerk