

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT  
TRUSTEES' MEETING**  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 (postponed from February 24<sup>th</sup>)

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Steve Dunn, Joe Murray, Ellen Errington, Susan Hathaway and Superintendent Jim Foster. Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Approve Minutes:**

**Steve made a motion to approve Draft 1 of the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Minutes. Joe seconded, vote was unanimous.**

**Steve Levy of Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA):**

Mr. Levy spoke to the Trustees about rates. He informed them that the Districts water rates are too low to qualify our District for Federal Grant money. Mr. Levy reported that there has been a change in legislation recently which has streamlined the process to increase rates. Another change is that we can now set aside money for infrastructure replacement or improvements with some specific requirements. Mr. Levy and Trustees discussed the pros and cons of doing projects using Federal Grant money as opposed to financing them through bonds as we have done in the past. All agreed that it has become necessary to raise rates at this time to cover increasing costs. The overall process remains the same and we must now prepare a rate increase proposal to be filed with the Public Utilities Commission. Trustees and Mr. Levy also discussed staff planning and how MRWA can help. Daphne from MRWA is to meet with Jim to help with developing a budget as a first step.

**Steve made a motion to do a 6104A Rate Increase not to exceed 5%. Joe seconded, vote was unanimous.**

**Gray Water District Water Storage:**

Al Palmer of Gorrill & Palmer Engineers sent an email to update trustees. Jim read the email which included the following:

**Contract Status**

- Contract has been executed by DN Tanks and the District; one copy has been returned to DN Tanks and one retained by each of the District and GP

**Past Activities & Follow-Up Items**

- Pre-Construction Meeting – Wednesday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at office of Gorrill-Palmer (DN Tanks attended with their Site Contractor (AH Grover of Cumberland)
- See attached notes from Pre-Construction Meeting
- Project Schedule from DN Tanks is attached.
- Project Schedule with Approximate Values of Work from DN Tanks is attached to assist District in projecting cash flow.
- Week of 2/24/14
  - Site contractor mobilized to site on 2/26/14

- Cleared site as required for tank pad and access drive
- Site contractor roughed in access road up the new tank pad

### **Upcoming Activities – Next Two Weeks**

- Week of 3/3/14
  - Complete rough grading of tank pad area
  - Complete rough grading of access drive
  - Relocate hydrant by end of week
- Week of 3/10/14
  - Anticipate tapping existing main on Tuesday or Wednesday
  - Install new 16" main remainder of week

### **Contractor Submittals**

- Site Work Items Such as pipe and fittings. Returned to DN Tanks
- Awaiting Tank Submission. Will forward to District for review upon receipt. Anticipated Receipt is March 7, 2014

### **Other Items**

- Value Engineering Changes have been submitted to the Town of Gray for Staff Approval in accordance with Condition #7 from the Planning Board Approval
- Doug Webster was scheduled to review with Planning Board at February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. No comments received from Town to date
- Anticipate submission of Landscape Plan to Town within next two weeks. Will submit to District first for any comments.

### **Superintendents Report:**

- a. January Bacteria tests were absent for total coliform and E-coli.
- b. Average usage for January: 223 GPM
- c. Utility Service Company wants to attend the next Trustee meeting. They will be presenting their findings and offering service in regard to the Dry Mills standpipe.
- d. Had a meeting with Verizon and Control Point about telemetry and transmitting data between pump stations and standpipes. Data would be transmitted via cellular and the cost is much less now than it was previously. Jim will continue to look into this option and report back at the next meeting.
- e. DHHS notified us that we have a technical violation due to a test that was not taken back in 2012. The test is for Radium 228, a naturally occurring element. Based on our Gross Alpha test results at the time it was our understanding that this test was not required. We are now complying and having this test done.

### **Trustee Reports**

Steve drafted a letter to Randy Cookson, Solid Waste Director of the Town of Gray. The letter asks questions in regard to the Water Quality Monitoring report for the closed Gray landfill from Woodard and Curran that Steve reviewed and reported on at the last meeting. The Office Manager is to send the letter out to Randy Cookson tomorrow with copies going to Deborah Cabana, Gray Town Manager and Randy Tome of Woodard & Curran.

**GWD Utility Tractor:**

Jim described a Bob Cat Utility Tractor that he is interested in the District buying. The tractor would be used at the new Pump station 3, East Gray. Jim is reviewing other possible equipment alternatives.

**Route 26 Corridor Study:**

Joe reported that he attended the latest public meeting for this. The committee presented 3 different scenarios for the development of the area between the bypass and Dry Mills. Some of which are very elaborate. He will continue to stay informed on the subject and report back any new info. The general concept is to develop some sort of commercial corridor along route 26 and improve traffic flow.

March meeting was scheduled for Mar 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Joe made a motion to adjourn at 9:13 pm. Steve seconded, vote was unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sudiek Lester