

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT
TRUSTEES' MEETING**
April 6th, 2020

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Steve Dunn, Andrew Edson, Mitch Berkowitz, Joe Murray and Superintendent Jim Foster. President Sawyer called meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

NOTE 1: Meeting held as an electronic meeting as posted in the Post Office and Gray Shop and Save per Governor Mills directive regarding public meetings during declared emergency.

NOTE 2: Superintendent Foster did not join the meeting until initial Executive session was concluded.

Executive Session: Motion to enter into executive session per MRSA 405 (6) (A) to discuss protected personnel matter made by Berkowitz, seconded by Murray. Vote by voice poll was unanimous. Executive session entered at 6:36 PM.

Motion to come out of executive session made by Murray, seconded by Dunn. Voice vote was unanimous. Session ended at 7:34 PM. **Resulting action:** Determined that the potential second executive session (Agenda item # 7) would be needed and would be called later in this meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept first draft by Dunn, seconded by Murray. Minor clerical corrections were made and minutes approved, as corrected, by unanimous voice vote.

Rate Case: Trustees discussed possible changes to previously approval plan of action for the pending rate case due to the pandemic. Timing, the pressing need for additional revenue and the potential impact on ratepayers and the Town budget were the discussion issues. A possible 2-step implementation was considered as was a "bare-bones" option. The latter was deemed not viable as it was insufficient to answer the projected revenue needs. Specific rate increase timetables, required public hearing (s) and the uncertainty of DOT timing for the North Raymond Rd project were all discussed at length.

Motion by Berkowitz, second by Murray as follows; To proceed with full rate case on the same schedule as previously approved (filing with PUC by April 15th). Implementation phase to be as dictated by State actions regarding holding of the required public hearing. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Action Item: Superintendent to immediately notify MRWA of this decision and schedule.

Drinking Water Program Report: Superintendent Foster updated the Board on status of action on report items.

- a. Monthly Operating Report- Report submissions have resumed as have Ph and Silicate dose readings. Seven months of the required 2 years of reports have been completed. Original due date of April 15th has been extended to May 15th.
- b. Flushing Program-Bill and Mike have come up with flushing plan and are prepared to begin. Jim expressed concern that there is always the possibility of a main break or other problem during flushing operations and it may be very difficult to get

contractor assistance due to the pandemic restrictions/concerns. Jim was directed to have them to go ahead but to proceed-with-caution. Original deadline to complete flushing by April 30th was extended to May 15th.

- c. Equipment Repairs-Repairs to the Ph meter/probe and silicate pump were reported as complete at the March 28th meeting.
- d. Backflow Device-Testing is pending with completion expected this week. April 30th deadline remains.
- e. Dry Mills Tank-Jim is trying to locate the previous tank inspection report. Report will be used to formulate the future course of action.
- f. Wellhead Protection-Not reported on. Not clear if this is to be included in the GWD Master Plan or is a separate plan to be developed. Clarification/follow-up with DWP is needed.
- g. Eyewash Stations-Not reported on. Status information needed.
- h. Telemetry Repair. System is older technology running primarily on MODEMs and leased phone lines. Not currently operable from the office and not dependent on the internet to function. Future discussions with Board needed to determine a path forward. Mitch will contact Jackman Water District for input on systems in operation at a similar size facility.
- i. Master Plan Update-Not reported on. Plan update is sorely needed. Future Board discussions needed on action plan including possible grant money to accomplish the update.
- j. Valve Exercise Program-Not Reported on. Status report needed.
- k. Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act-Jim reports that meter repairs no longer being done with non lead-free parts. Such parts in inventory will be turned in for scrap on our next run to the transfer station. Removed meters are being replaced with plastic body meters except for seasonal which are returned each season as long as they are operational. Jim expressed concern about the expense of this change and the lack of budget to fully implement.

Superintendents Report:

- a. Russell School Fire-Jim called to scene after the fire due to resident complaint about sediment in water. He believes result of firefighter hydrant operations. Did not receive any other complaints and did not contact complainant directly due to pandemic concerns. States, in retrospect, he should have.
- b. Maine Power Options has offered a 3-year contract for electricity at .0561 per KWH. We currently pay .065 so this offers potential savings about \$1,100/yr. **Action Item:** Jim directed to proceed with accepting the offer.
- c. We were advised by Woodard and Curran that the oil/water separator testing fees will be going from \$1,200 to \$2,100 in new contract. After discussion it was determined the Town needs to be involved because this is a Town reimbursed contract. **Action item:** Jim to contact the Town Manager for guidance on how they would like us to proceed.

Shut offs and Late Fees: Decision to suspend has been made and publicized. No further action warranted.

Executive Session: Motion to enter Executive session per MRSA 405 (6) (A) to discuss protected personnel matters made by Edson seconded by Berkowitz. Voice poll vote unanimous. Executive session entered 8:45 PM. **Motion** to come out of executive session made by Murray seconded by Dunn. Voice poll vote unanimous. Session ended 9:45PM. **Resulting action:** Determined that additional executive session time would be needed and it will be scheduled at the beginning of the regularly scheduled April 20th meeting.

Next Meeting: Next meeting Monday, April 20th. Will be an electronic meeting beginning at 6:30 PM with an executive session under MRSA 405 (6) (A).

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Murray, seconded by Dunn. Voice poll vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned 9:55 PM

Respectfully submitted;

Joe Murray
Faithful Scribe