

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT  
TRUSTEES' MEETING  
April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Andrew Edson, Steve Dunn, Mitch Berkowitz, Joe Murray and Superintendent Jim Foster. President Sawyer called meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

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

**Previous Minutes:** Second draft of April 6, 2020 special meeting minutes approved with 2 minor changes. Second draft of April 11, 2020 special meeting minutes approved without change. Voice poll results on both were, four approval and one abstain.

**Executive Session:** **Motion** to enter executive session Per MRSA 405 (6) (A) to discuss protected personnel matter by Berkowitz, second by Dunn. Voice poll vote unanimous. Executive session entered at 6:45 PM.

**Motion** to come out of Executive session by Dunn, second by Berkowitz. Voice poll vote unanimous. Session ended at 7:00 PM. **Resulting action:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:**

1. AGM for March was 255
2. Bacterial tests were absent for E-coli and total coliform.
3. Updates on major issues identified in the Sanitary Inspection Report:
  - Fifteen months of required 24 months MOR reports have been completed. Five have been submitted and the remainder being verified. Will meet the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  - Hydrant flushing is underway. Expect completion ahead of the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  - Backflow preventer at East Gray well tested and passed inspection.
  - Eyewash stations also tested. Waiting proper tags to tag stations.
  - Lead containing parts and meters have been scrapped. Received Total of \$650 scrap value.
4. Samples for the Spring salt level testing of the Route 26A monitoring wells were taken April 3<sup>rd</sup> by Sevee and Maher. Waiting results.
5. No new information on the Route 26 Sidewalk project.
6. No information on Town initiative regarding changes to the Route 100 TIF.
7. Jim met with Town officials regarding pending price increases for testing at the Town garage property. Town decided to continue with current practices through the Spring cycle and reassess after.
8. Three year contract has been signed for Maine Power Options to provide power with an expected savings of \$1,100/yr

### **Trustee Reports:**

Berkowitz reviewed information from the Jackman Water District which was previously provided to each trustee. Primary emphasis was on comparing the telemetry systems for similar sized operations. Concluded that our system was stable but dated and should be upgraded to include more specific alarm notifications and easier access via internet. Given our small size and budget, the system should focus on monitoring and alarms with little or no remote equipment control. A scalable system allowing stepped improvements over time would be essential, particularly from a budget standpoint. The possibility that infrastructure grants resulting from the current pandemic crisis might be available for this initiative was discussed.

**Action item:** Superintendent to contact current system maintenance company to determine what improvement options exist and possible recommendations for a new system.

**Action item:** Edson to contact firms working with the Portland Water District SCADA systems for possible firms to review our systems and provide recommendations. Results to be coordinated with Superintendent.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Rate Case:**

MRWA has requested final decision on rate case scheduling. After much discussion it was concluded that we would need to contract with MRWA to take the lead on this and we would work to a schedule based on their availability. Murray questioned why the serious impact of the depletion of the McKin settlement funds was not mentioned in the proposed Legal Notice. He also had a question about a possible missing line-item on the balance sheet included in the rate package.

**Action item:** Superintendent to set up conference call between himself, Murray and Cathy Robinson of MRWA to resolve.

#### **North Raymond Road Project:**

With very little notice, the DOT has decided to move ahead immediately with this project. Start date is May 4<sup>th</sup> with the water line associated work starting May 13<sup>th</sup>. Daily oversight of the water line work is essential. A combination of part time (twice daily) reviews by Gorrill and Palmer engineers and visits by three GWD staff will be implemented throughout the water line work. Bonding to support the work must now be implemented and a short term anticipation loan may be needed to cover the interim period.

**Action item:** Superintendent to execute contract with Gorrill and Palmer for engineering oversight.

**Action item:** Superintendent to contact Curtis Thaxter firm and initiate action to secure bond funding.

**Action item:** Sawyer to explore short term loan options.

#### **PFAS Water Quality Testing:**

Test results to establish a baseline have been received from Sevee and Maher. Main wells show very low detections that are well below State and federal thresholds. Well # 3 had none detectable. Ongoing sampling will be planned on an annual basis.

**NOAA Request for Water Service:**

Gorill and Palmer has completed preliminary estimate work on possible service routes. NOAA has requested an estimate for the survey work necessary prior to engineering a specific project. Because of the unique location of the NOAA facility, a part our water line would need to go through New Gloucester and there may be issues involving Town and/or New Gloucester Water District permissions. There may also be issues involving State land to resolve. Project funding was discussed. NOAA needs to provide 100% of the funding and it needs to be in advance of any obligations. GWD cannot do this work on a reimbursement basis.

**Action item:** Superintendent to advise NOAA of current status and GWD requirement that funding must be provided in advance of any commitment(s) made by GWD on this project.

**Action item:** Sawyer to contact New Gloucester Water District to determine if any issues regarding this project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Water Quality Complaint:**

Superintendent received a written water quality complaint from a Mayall Road resident. More information is needed to properly evaluate the complaint and to determine a course of action.

**Action item:** Superintendent to investigate complaint and to provide resident with written response regarding receipt of complaint and our commitment to check into it.

**Schedule Next Meeting:**

Next meeting scheduled for May 18, 2020. Meeting will likely be a continuation of electronic meeting process.

**Adjourn: Motion** to adjourn by Murray, second by Dunn. Voice poll vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned 8:48 PM

**OUTSTANDING ITEMS:**

- Town sidewalk project
- Route 100 TIF
- Position descriptions/Performance standards
- G.I.S.
- Utility Service CO-DM standpipe
- Relocation of office
- Search for new water source
- Flag pole
- MOU with Town

Respectfully submitted;  
Joe Murray, Clerk