

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT
TRUSTEES MEETING
January 21, 2022
Location: 14 Lewiston Rd**

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Steve Dunn, Mike MacDonald, Mitch Berkowitz, Joe Murray and Superintendent Bill Gardner. Bruce called meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Average gallons per day (AGD) for pumps 1&2 was 274,258. Pump 3 was run for 5 days 123,530.
2. Bacteria samples came back absent. An Operations & Maintenance (O&M) sample at Weeks Hill (W/H) Tank also came back absent.
3. Mike attended the first of four Trustee Training sessions at the Gray Water District office via zoom. All Trustees are welcome to attend the future sessions, the next one is February 9th. We'll need to advertise since two or more Trustees may be attending.
4. January 3rd, we had a main break at the end of Wheeler Rd. We were able to do a wrap repair. The break cost about \$3200. This along with the other breaks we've had over the past year in that area tells us that it is in need of replacement sooner than later. The replacement of the turnpike crossing this summer will allow us to fill W/H tank to capacity but there is real concern that the added pressure will cause more breaks along West Gray Rd. West Gray Rd replacement could be split into two phases; the section from Walgreens up to the newly installed stream crossing could be phase one. An estimate of cost from Gorrill-Palmer for that is \$394,000. We are currently filling out an application with the Drinking Water Program State Revolving Fund for grant money to help with cost. Phase two would be from the stream crossing to the end. We have not done a cost estimate for that piece yet.
5. On January 12th MDOT did seventeen borings out on Depot Rd. MDOT will be doing an overlay and trenching in that area this year.
6. We found two freeze-ups after reading meters this month. Our pumpage has been up but we couldn't find any leaks after searching the system. After reading meters we found that pipes in two unoccupied homes had frozen and burst causing a lot of damage and water loss. The customers were billed for the lost water; one was about \$1200 and the other about \$900.

Trustee Reports:

Mike reported that he met with Yarmouth Water District Superintendent and a Trustee. They discussed a possible interconnection. Yarmouth is planning to build a new storage tank on Walnut Hill which is approximately 1.5 miles from the end of our line. They also have a source near the end of our main that they say is capable of producing 100's of gallons per minute (GPM). They may be interested in developing that with us. We will be scheduling another meeting with our Superintendent in attendance as well.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landfill Test Well Results:

Nothing new to report. We still have not heard from the Town as to what their engineers have to say regarding the increased contaminants in the landfill test wells. Trustees discussed that we should have a meeting with them, bring the letters and directly discuss the issue. The most recent letter was sent to the new Town Manager, Nate Rudy, so it's not that the subject got lost in the transition of Town Managers. Steve sent out copies of our past letters to the Town on this subject in preparation for a possible future meeting.

ACTION: Mitch & Steve to work together to address this issue.

NOAA Request for Service/GWD Charter Amendment:

The Superintendent met with Senator Cathy Breen on January 10th to get her up to speed on what we are proposing to do so that we can get a letter of support. The Legislature approved our Charter change and it is now on the docket to be voted on in the next couple months. The Superintendent also reported that he would like to get a section of pipe installed this year before the DOT does their work in that area and puts a three-year moratorium on road opening. That way we can do this project without the need to open the road.

ACTION: Superintendent to initiate action to have pipe installed.

TIF-Town Project Discussions:

Trustees met with the Town on needed projects. Mitch provided them with a spreadsheet of the various projects that have been discussed in the past with some updated costs. The Town was made aware that infrastructure upgrades within their projects should be done first. We do not have any funds to do those upgrades and are requesting that a portion of any federal or state funding that become available to the Town be made available to us for this purpose.

ACTION: None

Federal Projects and Funding:

During the meeting regarding project funding with the Town Mitch encouraged the idea of sharing a grant writer between the two entities. We have already checked with our engineer, Gorrill-Palmer (GPE) and Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) about grant writing and neither of them do it. Mitch mentioned that he has a contact at an engineering firm he can ask.

ACTION: Mitch to call his contact, a former Town Manager who is now at Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCoG).

Road Opening Permits:

Waiting to hear from the Town on their development of the draft of the revised permit ordinance. Joe reported their plan is to develop a first draft and get our input at that early stage.

ACTION: Bill to check with the Public Works Director for an update.

Legislative Updates:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None

Turnpike Crossing Project:

The engineering for this project is almost done. We will be scheduling a public hearing for the USDA grant/loan during our February meeting.

PFAS:

We have received a proposal for testing for PFAS in our three source wells as well as monitoring wells within the Wellhead protection area. The proposal includes sampling and reporting. The total cost will be \$7958.

Motion/Second by Murray/Berkowitz to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposal and have the testing done.

Rate Case:

Cathy Robinson of MRWA is now working on the rate case. She has sent a request for information to our Office Manager which will be worked on as time allows.

NEW BUSINESS:

Purchasing Policy:

Mitch proposed updating/enacting a purchasing policy after water district staff from another town were fired after returning junk metal and keeping the proceeds. Joe presented language that is already in our Personnel Policy that he feels covers this issue. Mitch presented a draft purchasing policy that he thought he had previously received from GWD but the Office Manager didn't recognize it or have any memory of such a document existing. Office Manager will investigate and Trustees will discuss next month.

ACTION: Office Manager to check office records for a standalone purchasing policy.

Emergency List:

Joe requested a copy of the latest emergency list with a revision date recorded.

ACTION: Office Manager to send updated list to all Trustees.

Personnel:

Motion/Second by Berkowitz/Murray to go into executive session per MRSA 405 (A) at 7:33 pm. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion/Second Murray/MacDonald to come out of executive session at 7:47 pm. Vote to approve was unanimous.

ACTION: None.

OTHER:

Next scheduled regular meeting: February 28, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Adjournment: 7:48 pm.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

- Route 100 TIF (South)
- Planning for the future/CIP programming
- G.I.S.
- Search for new water source

Respectfully submitted,

Sudiek Lester, Office Manager