

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

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Steve Dunn, Mike MacDonald, Mitch Berkowitz, Joe Murray and Superintendent Bill Gardner. Doug Webster of Town of Gray was also present. Bruce called meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Water Test Results Clearinghouse:

Doug Webster from the Town of Gray was in attendance to talk about the plan to develop a database of water test results. GWD Trustees were originally made aware of the Towns idea last March. The Town would like to create a comprehensive map that includes information on these items from all sources available including information from Town and Water District Engineers, DEP and studies from the past 20 years or so. The data would be combined and put in a format that is easily updateable. Trustees made Doug aware that we are willing to share any testing data we or our engineers have available. Bruce suggested that Doug check in to the cost of retrieving data from engineering firms as GWD does not want to be surprised with a bill for the time it takes the firms to transfer the data to the Town. Doug assured Trustees that they do have money in the budget to cover this and if the cost gets to be too much he will stop and reassess.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Average gallons per day (AGD) for pumps 1&2 was 293,036. Pump 3 was run for 5 days for an average of 131,628.
2. Bacteria tests came back absent.
3. On March 8th Superintendent Gardner and Trustee MacDonald met with the Legislative Council at a public hearing to give testimony on LD1967, an act to amend our charter. It passed and now goes to the House and Senate. We are not expecting any problems with it going through successfully.
4. On March 9th and 10th Weston and Sampson was here to inspect and do maintenance on our three pumps. They replaced oil, repacked both pumps and did efficiency tests. We should have the reports by the end of this week. One of the pumps is running much better after the repacking. They were very thorough and competent. We will likely have them inspect annually from now on.
5. On March 10th we had a meeting with Kevin Kimball and Scott Dugas. They want to get piping installed for future development at Gerald's Way. There will be two duplexes built and a sand pit developed.
6. On March 11th we hired a new operator. His Name is Erik Kirchner. He has been working at another water district. He is not licensed yet but he has taken his classes and he does have experience. He will start on March 28th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landfill Test Well Results:

Trustees again took the opportunity of Doug Webster being present to question him again about the landfill test results that we have been asking the Town to investigate for the last several test cycles. There is still no answer to the question of why there have been upward trends of contaminants at the landfill monitoring wells. Doug stated that some action was taken by the prior Town Manager to answer our questions but it wasn't conclusive. He also stated that they had hoped for a list of possible causes from the engineering firm that creates the annual report for the landfill monitoring but they did not receive one. Doug suggested that the clearinghouse that has been proposed might bring some good information that can be used as a springboard for the next budget season to investigate further.

ACTION: None

NOAA Request for Service/GWD Charter Amendment:

We heard from NOAA today. They are releasing funds for the feasibility study. The study is already underway.

ACTION: None

TIF-Town Project Discussions:

This topic was covered by Doug Webster earlier in the meeting.

ACTION: None

Road Opening Permits:

Still no word from the Town.

ACTION: None

Legislative Updates:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None

Turnpike Crossing / West Gray Rd Main Replacement Projects:

On March 18th we met with the engineer from USDA Rural Development, Gorrill-Palmer Engineers (GPE) and the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) on the Turnpike Crossing project. Bill reported that he has combined these projects for the purpose of the grant/loan application. USDA Rural Development says the bigger the project is the easier it is to get through the process and get approved. So, both phases of the West Gray Rd project have been included into the application with the Turnpike crossing. The surveying and engineering for the end of /West Gray and Wheeler Roads will be done soon.

We have recently been notified that pipe is 24 to 28 weeks out. By the time the engineering is done, the bidding process complete and the winning contractor orders materials it will be next year before we can do these projects. We will continue to go through the process and be ready to go when materials are available.

ACTION: None

PFAS:

On March 15th Sevee & Maher Engineers (SME) sampled our well here at 80 Shaker Rd as well as five test wells between 80 Shaker Rd and the closed Gray Landfill. PFAS is included in their scope of work.

Rate Case:

Ongoing. The Office Manager is furnishing Cathy Robinson with financial information for the calculations. A public hearing needs to be scheduled in May to stay on our timeline so we are planning to do it during our regular Trustee meeting on May 16th. Normally we have MRWA present to answer questions but we've decided not to do that this time. We feel confident that we can answer any questions.

Purchasing Policy:

No progress this past month. We will check in on this next month.

ACTION: Joe to update sample policy Mitch provided earlier and make it specific to GWD operations. Draft copy will be sent to other Trustees for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Service for MDOT

There will be a new service installed at the MDOT facility on Portland Rd for the purpose of truck washing. The Town will also be able to utilize the new wash bay and there will be no more using our hydrants for non-fire purposes.

Portland Sand & Gravel and the Pennell building will also be getting new services to avoid hydrant use.

ACTION: None

Dry Mills Tank Painting:

We have a proposal from Central Maine Industrial Painting (CMIP) to paint the Dry Mills tank this summer. The amount is \$31,000 which is significantly less than we expected. The painting will complete the rehab that was started last summer when the tank was inspected, repaired and the interior recoated by CMIP.

Motion/Second by Berkowitz/Murray to award the tank painting to CMIP based on their bid price and their prior year quality work.

ACTION: None

District Fencing:

Bill and Trustees discussed that the cost of fencing at 80 Shaker Rd. Since the existing fence will need to be removed for the Turnpike crossing project, it was decided to include the fence relocation/upgrade in that project. The fencing at Pump Station 3 must get done first and we will plan on scheduling that this summer.

ACTION: As an interim measure, Bill will have the barbed wire removed from the fencing facing route 26.

Mission Statement:

Bill presented his idea for the mission statement. He would like to create one then post it to the website. Trustees would like to continue the discussion next meeting.

ACTION: Trustees to bring their thoughts or their own drafts regarding the mission statement to the next meeting,

Performance Evaluations:

Bill completed employee performance evaluations. He presented Trustees with copies of the completed forms with employee signatures. Employee evaluations will be discussed in detail in executive session at the end of the meeting.

Motion/Second by Berkowitz/MacDonald to go into executive session per MRSA405(6)(A) to discuss personnel matters at 8:26 pm. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion/Second by Murray/Berkowitz to come out of executive session at 8:39. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion/Second by Murray/Dunn to accept Superintendent recommendations regarding merit increases for employees. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion/Second by Dunn/Murray to go into executive session per MRSA405(6)(A) to discuss personnel matters at 8:42 pm. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion/Second by Murray/Dunn to come out of executive session at 9:15. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion/Second by Murray/Dunn to accept the evaluation and compensation adjustment for the Superintendent. Vote to approve was unanimous.

OTHER:

Next scheduled regular meeting: April 18, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Adjournment: 9:20 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