

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT
TRUSTEES MEETING
April 18, 2022
Location: 80 Shaker 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 302,871. Pump 3 was run for 5 days for an average of 125,140.
2. Bacteria test results for March were absent.
3. Employees completed a work zone safety class on March 24th. They are now certified to provide flagging if necessary.
4. We are working on the cemetery meter setting to see if we can correct it with some new parts rather than replace it. We will also spend some time helping to find their leak.
5. The recent change to our Charter was signed by the Governor on April 7th, it will go into effect in 90 days from that date. (July 6th)
6. We had a blowout in our injection vault here at the 80 Shaker Rd site. We were able to get a piece to get it back together. We will work to correct the entrance into the vault so that it is easier to access.
7. SCADA control is being installed at Pump Station 3. So far, it's going well.
8. We have called in Dig Safe requests for the addresses that are getting curb box replacements. We will get started as soon as the parts come in.
9. We have purchased 900' of HDPE pipe (6") and the associated pieces needed for temporary water service. We want to be prepared in the event of an emergency, such as failure of the turnpike crossing pipe, to be able to get water to customers north of the turnpike in the event we cannot get water main to do repairs. Right now the wait time for cast iron pipe is about 28 weeks.
10. We have 5 unmetered residential services in the system. We are beginning our investigation of these residences and what it will take to get them metered.

Trustee Reports:

Steve reported on the latest Water Quality Monitoring Report for the closed Gray Municipal Landfill. There are still exceedances of arsenic, iron and manganese in three wells. The report indicated continued and increasing upward trends for many elements as well as an increase in sodium in all wells. In addition to the down gradient wells there are also exceedances in a background well, upgradient of the landfill. Steve presented a draft letter to the Town regarding these trends and asks again that the Town investigate what is happening above that background well to cause the exceedances. Trustees discussed and will send the letter to the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landfill Test Well Results:

This item was covered under Trustee Reports.

ACTION: Send letter to Town of Gray.

NOAA Request for Service/GWD Charter Amendment:

Nothing new to report this month.

ACTION: None

TIF-Town Project Discussions:

The catch basin project in the village seems to be back on. We will coordinate with Public Works to raise our valves while they overlay Libby Hill Rd and other nearby side streets. Alec will keep us updated on his schedule.

ACTION: Bill will work with Public Works to coordinate our efforts.

Road Opening Permits:

Still no word from the Town.

ACTION: Bill to ask for an update from Alec.

Legislative Updates:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None

Turnpike Crossing / West Gray Rd Main Replacement Projects:

Bill reported that Senator Susan Collins office reached out to us regarding the earmark funds for projects. We originally thought we missed the deadline but they expressed that they are interested in our project if we could apply in the next couple days so Bill rushed to get an application into them. We have now applied for two funding sources for this project.

ACTION: None

PFAS:

We are waiting to hear back from SME on test results. They will include results for Nitrates and salt too. Trustees and Bill discussed a class action lawsuit regarding PFAS and whether or not we should join. The fine print seems to indicate that it is not in the District's best interest to sign on. Trustees are interested in what the Maine Drinking Water Program (MDWP) thinks of joining a suit.

ACTION: Bill to reach out to our contact at MDWP.

Rate Case:

Bill reported that he reached out to the Town Manager to inform him of the pending rate increase. The Town expressed that they'd like more notice in the future so that they can better budget for their water costs.

ACTION: Bruce to reach out to the Town Council Chair, Sandy Carder, to further discuss the rate increase and answer any questions she might have.

Purchasing Policy:

Joe is making progress on the policy. Trustees discussed spending limits that Joe has updated so far. Joe asked Bill some questions then requested to meet one on one to discuss some details to help with the remaining edits.

ACTION: Joe to continue updating the draft policy.

Dry Mills Tank Painting:

Bill reported that he had some tree work done at the Dry Mills tank in preparation for the painting that will happen this summer.

ACTION: None

Mission Statement:

Trustees and Bill discussed the draft Mission Statement and did some minor editing

ACTION: Bill to have the statement posted to the website next time our IT person does work.

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER:

Next scheduled regular meeting: May 16, 2022 @ 6:00 PM beginning with a Public Hearing about the rate case.

Adjournment: 7:45 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