

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT
TRUSTEES MEETING
June 27, 2022
Location: 80 Shaker Rd**

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Joe Murray, Mitch Berkowitz, and Superintendent Bill Gardner.
Mike MacDonald arrived at 6:40. Bruce called meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Average gallons per day (AGD) for pumps 1&2 was 341,065. Pump 3 was run for 7 days for an average of 119,679.
2. Bacteria test results for May were absent.
3. A walk in the village was completed with MDOT and Town officials. MDOT says they are planning to repair/replace two catch basins either this fall or next spring.
4. On the 19th we worked with Merrill Excavation to complete service repairs.
5. The meter pit at the cemetery was repaired with minimal parts.
6. The employee we hired back in March has resigned to return to his former position at another water district.
7. We began flushing on the 13th. We will continue tomorrow.
8. Painting of the Dry Mills tank will commence after July 4th.
9. We continue to work on getting all customers metered. We have four unmetered customers presently. The office manager wrote letters to three of the four regarding installation of meter pits. These three residences require meter pits due to either the length of their service line from the curb stop or their inability to furnish an appropriate place inside for the meter. The Superintendent has chosen to build the pits and plumb them himself in an effort to make these pits as inexpensive as possible for the customers. In addition to doing this work he is also waiving administrative fees, labor charges and allowing customers to pay for their pits over an 18-month period.
10. We had more trees removed due to brown tail moth caterpillars.
11. On June 24th our hydrant at 161 Shaker Rd was hit by a motorist. The top of the hydrant was completely broken off and the lower barrel was left at an angle. We will have EJP come down to help us inspect it and see what it needs for repairs before we send a bill to the motorist's insurance company.

Vacant Trustee Position:

Trustees discussed how we can fill the vacant Trustee position without the need for a special election. Bruce is to call the Town to be sure we are included on the ballot for November election.

ACTION: Bruce to report back after speaking with Town officials.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landfill Test Well Results:

We have not received a response from the Town after sending them another letter on May 24th.

ACTION: Continue to wait.

NOAA Request for Service/GWD Charter Amendment:

Still waiting for Gorrill-Palmer Engineers (GPE) to finish submitting documents to NOAA.

ACTION: None

TIF-Town Project Discussions:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None

Road Opening Permits:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None.

Legislative Updates:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None

Turnpike Crossing / West Gray Rd Main Replacement Projects:

The final step in applying for the loan/grant is to send a letter to the Town to let them know of our intentions and allow them to comment. The comment period is 30 days. We sent the letter via email to Doug Webster of the Town of Gray on May 25th. As of today, June 27th, there has been no response.

ACTION: The Superintendent will send Doug a follow up email when we submit to let him know.

PFAS:

The Superintendent and Trustee MacDonald attended a webinar put on by USEPA. They learned that the agency is advising that the contaminant level limits be reduced. They will be coming out with a final rule fall of 2023. For now, our water source is within limits. If we ended up above the limit set, we would have 3 years to comply. The federal government will have 5 billion available to help but the State has to apply for it first and then we would apply to the State. We need to keep working with the Town to figure out what is causing upward trends in their monitoring wells so that we can possibly stop these contaminants from reaching the drinking water supply wells.

ACTION: Trustee Berkowitz to speak with Sandy Carder and/or Nate Rudy of the Town of Gray.

Rate Case:

Rates were approved by the MPUC on June 16th with an effective date of July 1st. The office Manager will get minimum charges changed in the billing system in preparation for July billing. Joe suggested that we touch base with the customers who attended the public hearing regarding the Superintendent looking into whether or not we can have a discount or lower rate for elderly customers.

ACTION: Superintendent and Office manager to draft letters to advise public attendees of results regarding discount rates.

Purchasing Policy:

Joe continues to make progress on the draft policy. Trustees and Superintendent discussed details of the first draft and made some small changes. Joe will bring another draft to next meeting.

ACTION: Joe to continue updating the draft policy.

Storm Water & Spill Prevention Plans:

Joe reported that he reviewed the reports and drafted a letter to the Town addressing two concerns; monthly reporting and sediment hood issues. Office Manager prepared the letter, President Sawyer signed it and it was emailed to Town Manager Nate Rudy during the meeting. Joe also brought up the fact that some requirements of the MOU between GWD and the Town are not being completed. There is some testing to be done on the water coming out of the oil/water separators for sodium chloride, petroleum products and VOC's as they drain into the ground eventually. The MOU requires initial testing be done twice per year. Historical records cannot be located but testing is not currently being completed. There is also a requirement for a totalizing meter which may not be feasible or cost effective due to garage plumbing arrangements.

ACTION: Superintendent Gardner to familiarize himself with the MOU from 2010 then meet with the Public Works Director to schedule tests and assure that the Town knows they are responsible for the cost. Superintendent to also determine the feasibility/cost effectiveness of installation of a totalizing meter.

Sodium Silicate Treatment:

Superintendent Gardner received a response to his request to discontinue the use of Sodium Silicate at the Pump Station 3 source. MDWP has asked him to answer some questions and supply more detail before they decide.

ACTION: Superintendent will prepare response to MDWP.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Workshop with MDOT:

There is a workshop meeting scheduled for August 9th to talk about the center of Gray Village. We have been invited to participate.

MWUA Grant Writing Assistance:

Joe brought to everyone's attention an announcement by Maine Water Utilities Association (MRWA) saying that they are offering free assistance with grant writing, funding and other financial asset requests. The program is funded by MDWP. We could possibly get assistance with looping our system by running a main up the bypass.

ACTION: Joe is to reach out to them and inquire if the program is available for large scale projects.

Executive Session:

Motion/Second by Murray/MacDonald to go into executive session per MRSA405(6)(A) to discuss personnel matters at 8:00 pm. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion/Second by Murray/Berkowitz to come out of executive session at 8:15. Vote to approve was unanimous.

OTHER:

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

Adjournment: 8:17 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