

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT
TRUSTEES MEETING
February 26, 2023
Location: 80 Shaker Rd**

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Joe Murray, Mike MacDonald, John Roy and Superintendent Bill Gardner. Mitch Berkowitz was present via phone. Town Manager Michael Foley and Fire Chief Kurt Elkanich were both present as guests. Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Average gallons per day (AGD) for pumps 1&2 was 365,225. AGD for Pump 3 was 81,136. Pump 3 was run 3 days per week.
2. Monthly samples for January were absent of bacteria.
3. 1/30 We had a main break on Yarmouth Rd. The break was on the 8" cast iron pipe and was repaired with a wrap. The cost of the repair was \$11,000.
4. 1/31 Attended a meeting with the Town. They are planning to close Brown Street temporarily to see if it is a good idea to do it permanently.
5. 2/14 Repaired a service leak that was causing a loss of 20,000-30,000 gallons per day.
6. 2/12 there was a fire on Colley Hill. 2/16 There was a fire on Libby Hill.
7. We have replaced many meters in the system so far, at a significant cost. Recently, it was brought to our attention that we can apply for funding through SRF for meter replacements. We will be applying.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landfill Test Well Results:

The Town Manager was asked about this during the meeting, and he said he would investigate it.

ACTION: None

Turnpike Crossing / West Gray Rd Main Replacement Projects:

The project is going well. As soon as drilling began it was evident that two more lengths of pipe were needed. We will be drafting a letter for West Gray Rd residents regarding the temporary water that will be installed during the project.

ACTION: None

Gerald's Way Main Extension:

Scott Dugas says he wants to get the job done before the roads are unposted.

ACTION: None.

Shaker Rd Project:

Superintendent Gardner reported that this project is on the back burner for now. Lewiston Rd is a priority over this.

ACTION: None.

LD1864 (formerly LD2003):

Superintendent Gardner reported that he spoke to Brad Sawyer of Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) and Brad says the law is dead. Town Manager states that this is incorrect and that, even though the numbers are the same, it is a new proposal that was ruled as “ought not to pass”.

ACTION: None

Meadowview II:

Nothing new to report. We are still expecting to do this job in the spring.

ACTION: None

Lewiston Rd Project:

Superintendent Gardner reported that although we missed the primary list for SRF and are on the backup list there is still a chance we could be picked.

ACTION: Work on USDA application.

Antenna MOU Dry Mills Standpipe:

Trustees, Superintendent, Town Manager and Fire Chief discussed the latest version of the document and comments from the Town’s lawyer. The Town Manager will provide a Town revision based on tonight’s discussion.

ACTION: None.

FEMA Grant (BRICS):

Superintendent Gardner reported that he has found other grants to apply to for the generator while we wait on the BRICS grant.

ACTION: None

2024 Bond:

Superintendent Gardner reported that the Bond Bank will have their meeting to approve bond issues on March 13th.

ACTION: None

Woodcock Phase II:

This project will happen in the fall or later due to environmental issues.

ACTION: Move to open items list.

6 N. Raymond Rd:

Waiting to hear from this potential customer.

ACTION: Move to open items list.

Rate Increase:

Trustee MacDonald spoke about a plan to lower water bills for one person/small households by lowering the minimum usage from 400 cubic feet to 300 cubic feet.

ACTION: Superintendent Gardner to talk to Cathy Robinson about it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Manager, Michael Foley:

The new Town Manager, Michael Foley, was introduced to Trustees and Superintendent Gardner. Trustee Sawyer gave a brief history of the water district, a description of our operations and an overview of what we are working on for the future. He was also given a copy of our master plan. Mr. Foley, Trustees and Superintendent Gardner discussed a possible connection to Portland Water District (PWD). This idea has come up a few times over the years but has never gone anywhere due to the cost and the dramatic difference in water quality. GWD was made aware that the issue had come up again when we received a phone call from the PWD Superintendent at the beginning of February, commenting on water quality and production issues and wanting to discuss first steps. Superintendent Gardner expressed that our water quality and production are excellent and that he has not even met the new town manager and so has had no discussions about water quality or connections to other districts. The group discussion revealed that there are some customers near the Cumberland end of Portland Rd that are having trouble with their private wells. These residents' issues and the desire of the town council to connect to Portland is what instigated Mr. Foley to reach out to PWD. Trustees and Superintendent made Mr. Foley aware that our water source is pristine and cannot be mixed with PWD's water. Our customers are accustomed to this water. On the rare occasions we treat with a small amount of chlorine we get many complaints. Right now, our focus is to replace aging mains. We have plans to build a new tank, create loops and possibly take over the operation of an adjoining system. We have also discussed an interconnect with Yarmouth. In the end President Sawyer said that we are open to discussions and ideas but that, at this time, abandoning such a precious source of water is not in the best interest of the Town or our customers.

OTHER:

Next scheduled regular meeting: March 18, 2024 @ 6:00 PM.

Adjournment: 8:57 pm.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

- Route 100 TIF (South)
- Planning for the future/CIP programming
- G.I.S.
- Search for new water source
- Pineland System
- Front fencing/parking
- TIF-Town Project Discussions
- 10" Main on Yarmouth Rd
- Woodcock Dr. Phase II
- State Land Water Source (fish hatchery)
- Revision Solar
- Injection/treatment facility
- Grover Pit Water Service
- Deer Brook Extension
- Fish Hatchery Main Ext.
- Woodcock Phase II
- 6 North Raymond Road

Respectfully submitted,

Sudiek Lester, Office Manager