

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Warner Village Water District Commissioners
At 9:00 A.M. on
April 25, 2016 at the Treatment Plant

Present: Peter Newman, Peter Savlen, and Dan Lavoie, Commissioners; Ray Martin, Administrator; Jim McLaughlin, Clerk; Chuck Come, Acting Superintendent.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held on April 11, 2016 were approved as submitted.

Underground Injection of Treatment Plant Effluent

The Commissioners discussed the next step in investigating the underground injection of the plant's effluent. The concerns raised by Dave Mercier of Underwood Engineers about the suitability of the soils on the District's property were discussed. The Commissioners agreed that soils tests should be a top priority. One thought voiced was that while Chuck Rose is digging up the tree roots on the property, that this might be a cost efficient time to do the tests. Ray will contact Weston about moving ahead on soil testing.

North Village Road Wells

Ray reported nothing further from Public Utilities.

Superintendent's Report

Chuck reported that the sludge blanket alarm system is working as intended. Chuck advised that the recent reports of bubbles in the water supply are a direct result of the way Well #1 is being forced to be operated. He said that installing a variable frequency drive for this well is necessary in order to correct the introduction of air and allow the well pump to run smoothly. He is getting cost estimates for a VFD and said that while both wells should be equipped with these drives, Well #1 is the priority this year. He said the drive itself is not too expensive, but that the installation and electrical controls are pricey. Chuck reported that this week, a drawdown test will be carried out on this well to determine its performance.

Chuck reported that the State DOT is paving part of Pumpkin Hill Road and he intends to coordinate with them to make sure no manholes are paved over. Chuck said that he and Stan are in the process of locating all manholes in the Precinct, in preparation of developing a plan for raising covered manholes where necessary and long-term maintenance. He said the manholes on Split Rock Road are particularly in bad shape, due to their poor construction. Along with his concern for paved-over manholes, Chuck said he had checked with DOT and learned that they have no repaving plans for any of their roads in the Precinct over the coming two years.

He said the company that had done most of the manhole rehab in the village is only interested in the brick work part of this process, so if the District wanted to use their services, an alternative needed to be found in asphalt patching. The Commissioners discussed possible hiring of a temporary employee to work on manhole raising and repair.

Administrator's Report

Ray reported that the new truck has been purchased and is now in use. Chuck has loaded his tools on it and feels it will serve the District's needs very well. Ray is still waiting for Rural Development to approve reuse of part of the \$16,800 left from the clarifier project to offset a portion of the truck's cost, \$40,172. The Commissioners discussed selling the old truck and

agreed to put a minimum bid of \$1,000, in view of the new tires that were purchased for it.

Solar Array Project – Ray reported that Chuck Rose has finished the tree cutting and removal. He will return shortly to stump the area logged and grade it in preparation of the solar array installation. Ray said that Chuck Rose is doing all of this work for the value of wood he is removing, so there is no direct cost to the District. Concerning fencing, Harmony Solar maintains that none of their installations have found it necessary to fence their array. Additionally, Harmony Solar has redesigned the array layout and will put a portion within the currently fenced area and the remainder outside of the fence.

Ray explained that RD's requirement of an independent engineer on the entire project could add \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the project cost. In addition bond counsel is required by RD to ensure all of the steps taken are in accordance with federal regulations. None of these restrictions are in play with Sugar River. Ray said he has talked to Sugar River and received a slight reduction on the interest rate they would charge the District for the first 10 years of the loan – 2.60%, rather than the 2.65% quoted earlier. Going with Sugar River would be much simpler, shorten the timeline, and be less aggravating to us than getting RD financing. Ray advised that there is a risk that the Bank's rate for the second 10 year period could rise, but that it would be capped. However, if the promised savings associated with the solar array project are realized, the District could either pay off the loan balance after 10 years, or drastically shorten the remainder of the loan period. He said that he wanted to wait until RD approved the reuse of surplus grant funds before taking up the question of an alternative financing strategy.

The Commissioners were in general agreement to Ray's approach.

Ray reported that the auditors would be here this Thursday and Friday to work on the 2015 audit.

Ray distributed a draft of a letter from the Commissioners to the Warner Planning Board concerning the Commissioners position on pump stations for new development at Exit 9. This letter was discussed and refined to make the point that any new business on the south side of Rt. 103 would have to install and operate its own pump station. New businesses on the current Market Basket property would be accommodated by the existing station.

Jim mentioned that the Selectmen are setting up an economic development committee according to the latest Town Newsletter. Ray offered to represent the interests of the District on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

The next Commissioners meeting – Monday, May 9, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.
Recorded by Jim McLaughlin, Clerk