

Minutes of the Work Session Meeting of the
Warner Village Water District Commissioners
At 9:00 A.M. on
November 7, 2016 at the Treatment Plant

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

2017 Budget Discussion

Ray reviewed the revenue and expense reports as of the end of October. He noted that expenses will have to be watched between now and the end of the year, but that we should be okay.

Ray said the solar array is producing more electricity than estimated with \$5-8,000 in savings anticipated for this year.

Ray has applied for REGI energy credits, estimated at between \$5,000 and \$6,000 annually.

He reported that water and sewer rents will be about \$20,000 less than anticipated this year. This is due in part to the outside water use restriction imposed this summer on all customers. But it reflects a longer-term trend of lower water usage by District residents, due to smaller household size and an older population, some of whom spend a part of the winter season in warmer climates. The Commissioners discussed the probability of requesting a rate increase at the March annual meeting. Peter Savlen had suggested a 2% rate increase each year for several years to lessen the impact of such a measure. The discussion at this meeting seemed to favor a 5% increase once to increase revenues. By going slowly, the Commissioners would have to put small changes in the rates before the voters every year. This issue will be the subject of continued deliberation.

Ray advised that the Demoulas Company has approached the District concerning a tie-in fee for the planned State Liquor Store. The Commissioners discussed the fee that should be charged. Usage at this store is likely to be about the same as at Aubuchon Hardware, fairly minimal with a lavatory for employees only. So a base of \$2,000 for water and \$2,000 for sewer, plus \$1,000 for meter and miscellaneous materials seems appropriate. It was also proposed that an additional fee be levied to go into the McDonalds pump station account. \$6,000 was recommended. A total tie-in fee of \$11,000 was agreed to by the Commissioners. Ray will reflect this amount in his negotiations with the company.

Ray's preliminary budget numbers for 2017 were then reviewed in detail and some figures were tweaked. The Town's Budget Committee meets on Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

The next Commissioners meeting – Monday, November 14, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.

Recorded by Jim McLaughlin, Clerk