

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Warner Village Water District Commissioners  
At 9:00 A.M. on  
November 13, 2017 at the Treatment Plant

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held on October 23, 2017 were approved as submitted.

**North Village Road**

Nothing to report.

**Superintendent's Report**

*Groundwater Injection Project* – Chuck reported that the test pits dug on the parcel being considered for the plant's effluent injection were all satisfactory, except for one pit. Horizon Engineering promised to submit a report on their testing in a week. The engineer was very encouraged about the surficial materials in this area and their ability to accommodate the intended application.

*Generator* – Chuck advised that the old generator is not working well with the newly installed automatic transfer switch. While the switch operates at a 480 mw setting, the generator is only putting out 450 mw. Due to this inconsistency, the switch doesn't allow the generator output to be utilized to run the plant. Chuck said he will contact the switch installer to see if its setting can be reduced so that it can allow the generator's power to come on line, but he isn't optimistic that this solution will work. The discussion turned to the possibility of the District's getting a replacement generator. Dan suggested seeing if the Army National Guard might be able to provide a generator in the short or long term to provide emergency power. Chuck said that renting a generator for emergency occasions would cost a minimum set-up/take-down charge of \$1,000 for each. This is on top of the costs to operate the generator for the duration of the power outage could mean up to \$3-4,000 per rental period. Chuck said he can go without power for 8-9 hours, before the headworks is flooded beyond its ability of function. Chuck raised the problem of inadequate equipment at the headworks that severely limits his control of the pumps.

The Commissioners asked Chuck to get estimates on both a replacement generator and also the headworks control system. There was agreement that we are in a crisis situation with the generator and something needs to happen in the very near future. At present we have no backup in case of a power outage. Discussion proceeded on the way forward to getting authorization and the financing to replace the generator, including DRA approval for such an expenditure and its financing.

*Storage Tank Communication* – Chuck advised that the woes of the telephone land line communication between the water pump and the two storage tanks are increasing. He said he had to spend three days recently, constantly monitoring tank levels to make sure the water supply system continued. As discussed earlier, a cell phone setup is the solution to address this issue.

*Hydrants* – Chuck introduced the idea that the District take back ownership of the fire hydrants throughout the precinct. He said other water districts charge the town a set amount per hydrant and assume their maintenance and replacement. \$3-400 per hydrant is a typical fee. For us, this would amount to over \$16,000 annually to cover maintaining the 47 hydrants. The District would be able to purchase a backhoe capable of doing the excavation work without the involvement of Town Public Works personnel. Chuck said that under the current practice, he is involved in the hydrant replacement, directing the digging and installation. With our own equipment, he and Stan

could do the entire job by themselves. We would be able to replace two hydrants each year, something that is not happening with the Town in charge. The benefit to the Town would be the saving in time their personnel would have to spend on hydrant related work. The Commissioners agreed that this proposal was worth investigating and will follow up with the Board of Selectmen.

### **Administrator's Report**

*Solar Array* – Ray reported on the status of anticipated carbon credit payments that Harmony was responsible for arranging through a separate broker. No payments have ever been received, despite George Horrocks' promise to get the credit payments made to the District. George even promised to pay two quarters of missing credits, acknowledging his failure to make it happen. Ray has talked to a different broker who is known to others in town to see about changing our agent. Ray said that the solar array is a good deal for the District, even if carbon credits go away. In fact their value has dropped from \$55 per thousand to \$20. Also the State Legislature may gut the RGGI program in New Hampshire, meaning no funds would be diverted to carbon credits. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of changing the switching on the solar array so that in the event of a general power outage that affected the treatment plant, the solar power being produced, at least in the daytime, could be used to run the plant. This would require a governor on this switch that would ensure a level of power sufficient to keep the pumps running. Ray said he would check with Eversource as to the feasibility of such an arrangement.

*2018 Budget* - Ray distributed a revised draft budget for next year. He reviewed the changes he made in the revenue page. He reported that this quarter's billing is a surprising \$82,000, an increase from the previous fall quarter. Ray said the Budget Committee would be looking to finalize the District's budget at the end of January.

The Commissioners discussed raising the surcharge fee assessed to all users of the McDonalds lift station. This would be an increase that addresses needed repairs to this facility, and recognizes the fact that the initial rate was established in 2009. The Commissioners voted to increase the McDonalds pump station user charge by 50 percent, beginning with the quarter effective November 1, 2017.

*Groundwater Injection Project* – The Commissioners continued their discussion of the property they propose to use to receive the treatment plant's effluent, through infiltration into the groundwater. The purchase and sales agreement that Bracket Scheffy is drafting for execution with Tim Bragden will have three conditions, namely EPA gives its okay; the land will meet the needed absorption of the effluent, according to our engineers' estimate; and that easements that Tim requires do not jeopardize the District's intended use. Ray discussed the crossing under the river at a point directly opposite land currently owned by the District, thus obviating the need for any further easements with other property owners.

Jim suggested that the District Commissioners should meet with the Selectmen and possibly the Planning Board to discuss this project, in order to alert homeowners in the vicinity.

*Debit Card* - Ray recommended the Commissioners authorize him to acquire a debit card for District personnel to use when purchasing necessary materials and equipment for the District. This proposal was approved by the Commissioners.

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

The next Commissioners meeting: November 27, 2017 at 9 A.M.

Recorded by Jim McLaughlin, Clerk