

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Warner Village Water District Commissioners  
At 9:00 A.M. on  
June 9, 2021 at the Treatment Plant

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the Commissioners' regular meetings held on April 14, 2021 and May 12, 2021 were approved.

**Administrator's Report**

Ray Martin reviewed the revenue and expense reports for the end of April and May. He noted that expenditures for chemicals at the water plant were over budget, but said he may have misallocated chemicals that should be charged to sewer plant and will go over these with Chuck to make sure they are on the correct line.

Ray explained that revenues are typically low during the first half of the year but that they will catch up later.

Concerning electrical costs, Ray observed that given the 13 percent increase in Eversource electric rates over the past dozen years, the District's investment in solar energy production has effectively frozen the cost of its electricity. Ray said that he estimates that when net metering and carbon credits are taken into account, a net saving of about \$300 per month is being realized.

Ray described his and John Warzocha's efforts to bring the District's need for federal grants to the attention of Senator Jean Shaheen, for consideration in the proposed infrastructure bill being debated in Congress. \$800,000 was requested for the groundwater discharge project and \$100,000 for the well improvement project. Lesser amounts are being applied for through State Revolving Funds (SRF) for the same two projects to be on the safe side.

The Commissioners discussed the development activities at Exit 9 and the extensive fill ongoing on this parcel. Peter Savlen expressed concern about the nature of the fill material being brought in and the potential down stream effects on the District's wells if contaminated materials were being brought in. He suggested sampling the river above and below the site to monitor changes in water quality. Also suggested was for the developer to install monitoring wells on the property to assess potential impacts of the fill material on water quality. Ray said he would check into this idea.

The Commissioners discussed the tie-in fee for this project. At its meeting on April 14, the Commissioners had agreed on a fee of \$12,000, based on three buildings assessed \$4,000 each, as per the District's bylaws. This approach was modified to assign a cost of \$4,000 to each of two buildings currently underway, with an impact fee of \$4,000 assigned for the pump station that is necessary to handle wastewater from this site. Any further development on the remaining portion not now under development will be treated in a similar fashion. Ray will refine this proposal and report back to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

On the related topic of the surcharge fee assessed to each business utilizing the McDonalds pump station, Jim read the language in the bylaws that calls for all surcharge fees to be placed in a separate non-lapsing fund to be used only for operating, maintenance and eventual replacement of the pump station. Ray said this practice has not been followed but that the District has an independent checking account created for the second clarifier project and that can be reassigned for the surcharge fee account. Ray will also review past surcharge fee income and expense figures to determine the effective balance that is due. More on this in later meetings.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Chuck Come reported that the sewage treatment plant has been operating well. He advised that he plans to carry out repairs on the oxidation ditch's rotor in the coming months. Parts for this repair will cost about \$7,000, with another cost for crane rental. He expects to complete this repair for under \$10,000.

Chuck reported that smoke testing, with the assistance of NH Rural Water Association will take place next week to determine the state of groundwater infiltration involving roof drains hooked into the sewage main or deteriorating manholes on the Market Basket property. Chuck said that he has inspected seven of these manholes and found many of them to be in bad shape. A recent rain storm event saw a spike in influent to the plant.

Chuck advised the Commissioners of the need for a public information effort to warn system users not to flush sanitary items that are proving to be serious problems to the treatment plant's operation.

Concerning the rehabilitation of Well #1, Chuck described an approach that may be more cost effective than that of sinking test wells near the Well #1 location in an attempt to assess groundwater production capacity. The revised approach is for the well contractor to re-drill the existing well and install a new screen and pump apparatus to regenerate the well's capacity to produce water supply. This revision met with the approval of the Commissioners.

Finally, the Commissioners have been made aware that the outside water use ban from last year was never rescinded and that Precinct customers should be advised of this fact, given the current dry conditions that exist. Ray will draft something that emphasizes outside water uses that should be prohibited.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

The next regular meeting will be June 23, 2021.

Recorded by Jim McLaughlin, Clerk.