

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Warner Village Water District Commissioners
At 9:00 A.M. on
October 23, 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 September 25, 2017 were approved as submitted.

District/Town Coordination

The Commissioners discussed several issues involving coordination with the Town. Tim Allen has advised that the Town plans to pave School Street next summer. Chuck said that some of the manholes are in need of repair and that all would have to be raised to meet the new road level after paving. Discussed who should pay for the manhole risers needed, Town or District.

Scheduling of the paving should be coordinated with manhole repairs. This same issue will arise in other locations where the Town intends to repave the road.

Another issue is that of hydrant maintenance and replacement. Chuck said the Town purchased two new hydrants but has not moved head on their installation this year; this, despite the Town's intention to replace two a year. The Commissioners directed Ray to talk to Tim about his priorities and then schedule a meeting with the Selectmen to gain a clearer understanding of the mutual responsibilities on these matters.

Superintendent's Report

Chuck raised the problem of the excavation on Split Rock Road that was caused by a contractor working for a landowner to bring District services across the street to a building site. The fill in this trench wasn't properly compacted and has since settled, causing a hazard to motorists. Tim Allen has approached the District about the possibility of a contribution to the Town for the necessary repair. Tim estimated the cost to rent the equipment at \$1,800. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed to contribute \$1,000 to this project.

Groundwater Injection – Chuck advised that the Horizon consultant had walked the 8 acre parcel of land across the river that the District is considering for its groundwater injection project and said it looked promising. The next step is to dig some test pits to determine the suitability of the soil. Chuck will coordinate on this phase, following an amendment to our contract with Horizon Engineering to add \$2,800 more to cover the costs of investigating this new tract. Tim Blagden, the parcel's owner, has a little over \$43,000 invested and wants to get that money out of it. Ray said he has contacted Five Rivers Conservation Trust about their helping to raise funds to pay for the development rights on this land. Another potential source of funds is CDBG, since the State is requiring the District to meet the new NPDES permit standards. CDBG may require us to conduct an income survey of residents in the precinct, since eligibility for these grant funds is restricted to low and moderate income communities.

Chuck also advised that there may be \$30,000 available to the District to carry out a demonstration project to prove the viability of this project.

Ray will work on a purchase and sale agreement with Tim. Chuck will schedule the test pit digging with Horizon. Tim has expressed his interest in including a parking lot easement in this P&S agreement. The Commissioners discussed the inadvisability of this proposal due to the steep terrain in the location. Also the Town-owned parcel just west would be a much preferred site for parking.

Water Plant Communication – Chuck reported on continuing problems with the phone lines that connect the storage tanks and the water plant, caused by interruptions in TDS’ phone service. He urged the District to consider moving to a cellular connection that is the new standard for such applications, supplanting radio communication. Chuck said the cost would be about \$8,900 to set this up. He indicated that the District spent over \$3,000 this year alone on Denny Hill storage tank to maintain its connection to the plant. He added that the monthly charge for the three locations would be \$45. Following a discussion, the Commissioners agreed to put his into the 2018 budget.

Administrator’s Report

Solar Array - Ray distributed a summary of electricity cost between 2015 (before solar) and 2017 (after a year of electrical production). The bottom line is a net annual saving of \$2,983. Ray said he is revising the budget sheets to better reflect the electrical costs under the solar array.

2018 Budget - Ray distributed a draft budget for next year. He reviewed the budget, line-by-line and addressed questions. He said the Budget Committee meets on November 9 when he will present the draft numbers. Ray agreed to separate the revenue that comes from the Exit 9 surcharge, as distinct from the usual user charges. The Commissioners discussed raising the surcharge to add funds that can be used to replace this pump station.

Ray spent some time addressing the continued decreases in revenue from user charges. This lower metered water usage is directly tied to declining average occupancy of homes and water saving appliances that were revealed in the survey he sent out in the summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

The next Commissioners meeting: November 13, 2017 at 9 A.M.

Recorded by Jim McLaughlin, Clerk