

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Warner Village Water District Commissioners
At 9:00 A.M. on
January 28, 2019 at the Treatment Plant

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held on January 14, 2019 were approved as submitted.

Superintendent's Report

Chuck Come reported that the plant was running smoothly and had suffered no flooding problems as a result of the recent heavy rains.

Chuck said that both he and Stan Hammon had passed their Grade 1 Water Operator licenses and both will be sitting for the Grade 2 licenses. Discussed the impact of these licenses on Joe Damour's contractual services. The consensus was that Joe's continuing involvement at a modest level was helpful to the District, not on the day-to-day basis, but as a source of technical knowledge and assistance. Also DES has great confidence in Joe's skills and this helps the District. Both staff members have their Grade 2 Treatment Plant Operator licenses.

Chuck said that no sludge hauling will be necessary until April or May of this year, due to ditch cleaning work carried out in 2018.

Discussed the new fire station and its impact on sewage treatment. Chuck stated that any effluent that the Town may want to have disposed at the plant will have to be tested. Chuck is particularly concerned with wash water that may contain contaminants from a fire such as foam used to fight a fire. Chuck advised that decontamination room effluent will be pumped into a separate container and must be dealt with by the Fire Department. Chuck said that his work at the new station is done except for installing the meter touch pad.

Administrator's Report

Ray advised that the Budget Committee will hold its first hearing on the District's 2019 budget this coming Thursday, January 31.

On the groundwater discharge project, Ray said that he has been in discussion with Tim Blagden about the purchase and sales agreement on the property. The Commissioners discussed the purchase price and agreed to authorize Ray to go up to \$54,800 on the price. There was discussion on the importance of having two access points to the land, in case of snow blocking one. One possible point would be through the westerly abutting property now owned by the Town. Discussed possible issues with rail-to-trail being used as an access.

Ray provided revised expense and revenue reports for December, 2018 and explained the \$193 discrepancy that had been corrected. The Commissioners voted to accept the corrected December report.

Ray then distributed the 2019 budget as it will be considered by the Budget Committee on Thursday. Ray said the bottom line of the budget is \$444,197 which is a one percent increase over last year's total of \$439,400. Ray reviewed the various parts of the budget. State DOT upgrading of Rte. 103 is not scheduled for 2019, so the expense of raising/repairing manholes does not need to be addressed in this budget.

The Commissioners voted to encumber \$52,627 of unexpended funds, borrowed from Sugar River Bank into the 2019 budget, approximately \$17,000 of the original bond having been expended up to December 2018.

Ray pointed out that he has reduced the expected revenue from sewer rents by about \$12,000,

reflecting the experience over the past two years. He said that next year it may be necessary to consider increasing rates or the precinct tax in order to meet anticipated expenses. On the solar array project, Ray said that the District has seen a decrease in overall electricity cost since 2015. This should continue and may be even more favorable if Eversource electric rates increase over what they are currently. The Commissioners voted to accept the District's budget for 2019 in the amount of \$1,479,197. It was mentioned that this amount is \$1,035,000 over the operating budget of \$444,197 due to the potential cost of the groundwater discharge project (\$1 million and \$35,000 for the truck). The Commissioners then considered the 2018 District Annual Meeting warrant. Ray advised that the two articles involving bonding will require a 2/3 majority positive vote. The warrant was approved by unanimous vote of the Commissioners.

Other Business

Chris Perkins proposed that the Commissioners authorize a bonus payment to Ray for his outstanding work for the District during the past year. After some discussion, the Commissioners voted to award Ray a bonus in the amount of \$950.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

The next regular meeting will be February 11, 2109.
Recorded by Jim McLaughlin, Clerk.