

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Warner Village Water District Commissioners  
At 9:00 A.M. on  
February 8, 2023 at the Treatment Plant

Present: Shaun Murphy, and Dan Lavoie, Commissioners; Ray Martin, Administrator; Chuck Come, Superintendent; and Jim McLaughlin, Clerk. Also Taylor Come, job applicant.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held January 25, 2023 were approved by the Commissioners.

**Administrator's Report**

Ray explained the notice that was sent to all customers as well as being posted in various places concerning the failure of District personnel to submit a routine bacteria sample in December. Chuck had sent in the November sample and inadvertently sent in a second sample later in the same month. The January sample has been sent in. Chuck said that there were no violations in any of the test samples submitted.

The Commissioners discussed the continued absence of Peter Newman at the regular bi-monthly meetings and the effect this has had on the District's ability to conduct business in view of the attendant quorum problem. Ray has discussed this with Pete and he is willing to resign his position.

After additional discussion on this issue, a motion was made and adopted to accept Peter Newman's offer of resignation as a District Commissioner.

A second motion was then made and seconded to appoint Harold Blanchette as interim Commissioner until the 2023 Annual Meeting. This motion was approved by the Commissioners.

Following this, a motion was made and seconded to authorize the Commissioners: Dan Lavoie, Shaun Murphy and Harold Blanchette, and Christine Perkins, Treasurer, to have signature power on all District accounts at Sugar River Bank.

Finally, it was moved and seconded that the three Commissioners, named in the previous motion are authorized to open new and close old accounts of the Water District at the Sugar River Bank.

Ray reviewed the proposed groundwater protection ordinance that will be voted on at Town Meeting in March. The treatment plant will not be impacted by this ordinance.

**Superintendent's Report**

Chuck reported that the new communication system, based on radio equipment was installed last week and is working according to plan. This system frees Chuck from having to perform a manual check of water levels in the two storage tanks. Since it is independent of the Internet, it isn't subject to lapses in that service.

Chuck then discussed the project to inject treated effluent across the river onto the parcel of land purchased for that purpose. He explained that currently the amount of flow being experienced at the plant is between 50 and 60,000 gallons per day. One issue that has

been of concern is the anticipated flow in the case of storm events and the District's planned releasing this overflow into the river under a modified EPA NPDES permit. He said that EPA is not in favor of such a dual permitting process; they want the District to be limited to the groundwater injection model alone. Alternative ways to handle such added flows were discussed, including a drip irrigation approach on property on this side of the river. Chuck encouraged further testing of soil material around the solar array and beyond it to determine the suitability of this approach as a supplement to the primary disposal method across the river.

Discussion moved on to the nature of the way effluent will be introduced into the groundwater. Currently Horizon Engineering appears to be proposing a surface approach; pumping effluent into ponds, trenches or ribs as a way of injecting the effluent into the subsurface material. Chuck said that he has consulted with Joe Damour who has experience with a similar setup. Joe advises that over time the nutrient-rich effluent stimulates vegetative growth, requiring constant maintenance and eventually causing the entire disposal area to become resistant to accepting effluent. The area then must be restored to its original condition at a cost of many thousands of dollars. Joe cautions that the District should consider a below-ground solution similar to a leach field.

Chuck also described an additional measure that he feels should be incorporated into the system, namely a set of settling tanks or basins through which the treated effluent would flow on its way to being pumped across the river. The purpose would be to deliver the purest effluent possible prior to groundwater injection by settling out dissolved solids. Ray said that he would contact John Warzocha to find out what is happening on the design and how it comports to these initiatives.

Chuck reported that one of the solar array inverters had failed, causing a drop in electricity generated by 20 percent. This unit is being replaced under the District's agreement at no cost.

### **Job Interview**

The Commissioners interviewed Taylor Come for its open position of laborer/technician. Taylor is Chuck's son and has training in HVAC. Following the interview, the Commissioners agreed to hire Taylor on a full-time basis at \$22.00 per hour and with health care and retirement benefits. He will start as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

The next Commissioners' meeting to be February 22, 2023.

Recorded by James F. McLaughlin, Clerk