

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT
TRUSTEES MEETING
May 22, 2023
Location: 80 Shaker Rd**

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Mitch Berkowitz, Joe Murray, Mike MacDonald, John Roy and Superintendent Bill Gardner. Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Average gallons per day (AGD) for pumps 1&2 was 328,968. AGD for Pump 3 was 147,528. Total AGD was 476,496.
2. Monthly samples for April were absent of bacteria.
3. A new employee will start next month. Jim Johnson has been hired as operator. He already has a class one license. He has done a couple training days with us already but will start full time June 5th.
4. We found and repaired a leak at 240 Shaker Rd.
5. During the storm earlier this month a branch came down and tripped our 3-phase power. We ended up being without power at our main pump station for an extended period even though CMP stated multiple times throughout the first day that they would be here "in a couple hours." We ran on emergency power which is fueled by propane. Our propane vendor was also not responsive and we reached critically low levels before they showed up to fill the tanks. This experience highlighted some insufficiencies in our procedures. We are working with our contacts so that this situation does not happen again. Through this process we were made aware of a grant through the Maine Emergency Management Agency that could possibly cover the entire cost of a new generator. We are in the process of getting quotes. We also created an account with a company that will deliver a temporary emergency generator if the need ever arises. Pollard Electrical will be installing a new connection for the temporary generator so we are ready to go in an emergency. A couple weeks later CMP came and removed the tree that had dropped a branch on the line.
6. 5/2 attended a class on PUC Rules Chapter 65 and learned a lot.
7. 5/4 a new water service was installed at 19 Woodcock and a new electrical service drop was installed at the office. Pollard Electric can now upgrade the office/shop wiring to correct safety hazards.
8. 5/10 Superintendent Gardner, Trustee MacDonald and Operator Johnson Chlorinated the well at Pump Station 3 and let it sit over the weekend. Our annual chlorination of the Weeks Hill tank was also completed.
9. 5/11 the hydrant on route 26 that was damaged by a motorist was replaced. The total cost was \$10,143. We will bill the insurance company.
10. Reached out to the Town Manager to set up an in-person meeting. Have not heard back yet.
11. During a meter inspection a major cross connection was found at the Public Safety building. In addition, we found one meter has stopped and another was removed and replaced with a backflow preventor. It is not clear who did the work, when it was done or where the meter went but this situation is not only a high hazard to our

water system but a contributor to our unaccounted-for water. We will work with the Town to correct this quickly. We will also be conducting a cross-connection survey at other local mechanical shops as time allows.

12. We have a quote to inspect the Weeks Hill tank. The Trident Engineering will use a sanitized underwater drone to transmit images showing the condition of the inside and then make recommendations for any repairs needed. The condition of the outside right now is concerning. The outside coating has significant cracking. Trustees discussed that we had the tank builder come back a few years ago for the same issue and they did some work to remedy the problem. Trustees directed Superintendent to contact them again.

Trustee Reports:

Trustees MacDonald and Berkowitz met with Town Manager Nate Rudy. They discussed issues about communication between GWD and the Town. They learned that conversations between the Superintendent and Town employees regarding work that needs to be done and paid for by the Town are not being reliably relayed to the Town Manager. Trustees requested that Superintendent Gardner follow up verbal conversations with an email that is also sent to the Town Manager so that he is informed.

ACTION: Superintendent to reach out to Town Manager.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landfill Test Well Results:

Ransom has not responded yet with landfill closure information that was requested. We are still waiting on test results from Sevee & Maher Engineers (SME).

ACTION: None.

TIF-Town Project Discussions:

Superintendent Gardner reported that he received an email from the Town's engineer stating that the Town has not decided yet on how they will go forward on the Yarmouth Rd project. They may be looking for funding outside of MDOT.

ACTION: None

Motion/Second by Murray/Berkowitz to utilize a part of the \$50,000 received from the Town for this project to cover engineering and surveying costs for Yarmouth Rd. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Turnpike Crossing / West Gray Rd Main Replacement Projects:

Superintendent Gardner reported that he continues to take online classes with EPA for managing the project.

ACTION: None.

YWD Well Pumping Test Site:

The Superintendent of Yarmouth Water District will be sampling at the site for PFAS this spring.

ACTION: None.

State Land Water Source:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None.

Gerald's Way Main Extension:

We have received the parts for this job. Contractor has been notified but we do not have a start date yet.

John Merrill Project:

Ongoing.

ACTION: none

Spill and Stormwater Plan reports:

Trustee Murray has not completed report review.

ACTION: Trustee Murray to review reports and report back at the next meeting.

Income Survey:

The survey has not been scheduled yet. Expect it to be set up for mid-July.

ACTION: None

Injection/Treatment Facility:

On 3/23 an application was submitted for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) grant to be used for the new pumphouse building. We submitted for \$439,000 which is the whole project.

We have not heard back yet.

ACTION: None

Yarmouth Water District (YWD) Solar Farm:

Trustee MacDonald reported that he attended a meeting with YWD trustees and a representative that advises companies about solar options. They learned the pros and cons of different options. The least expensive option is to contract with a solar company to build and maintain the system then purchase it from them after seven years. The idea is that the most expensive components would already be replaced by year seven. The panels themselves are warranted for 30 years and they have recycling programs where they take the old panels back. We will need to give them records of our electricity use over the past year to get a quote. Another option is owning which is quite a bit of upfront cost plus we would be responsible for maintenance.

ACTION: Office Manager to get usage information to Trustees.

Update Master Plan:

Trustees and Superintendent discussed draft changes made by Superintendent. The replacement of 10" main on Yarmouth Rd will be separated out from the rest of Yarmouth Rd. A new generator and water filtration will also be added and completed items will be removed.

ACTION: Superintendent to make changes.

USDA Grant: Shaker Rd:

Superintendent Gardner reported that he is wrapping up the application for funding for replacement of water main along Shaker Rd. Signatures from the President and Clerk were needed and done at the meeting.

ACTION: Superintendent to submit application.

Front Fencing/Parking Lot Design:

Superintendent Gardner reported that our engineer reviewed our plan for the front parking lot and reported back that it is not feasible. Our design encroached on the right of way and would therefore not be approved by the town. It looks like we may need to wait until we build a new building to redesign the front lot. Trustees discussed further and Trustee MacDonald is to create a new sketch that includes moving the road on our property.

ACTION: Trustee MacDonald to present new sketch at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

PFAS:

Trustee Berkowitz presented an idea to convey more detailed information to customers regarding PFAS. It is important that customers are informed about how they may be affected as well as what steps GWD has already taken to address the issue and what our plan is going forward. We do already have some information on our website but it has not been updated with the latest sampling information. Trustees and Superintendent discussed that we should update our website for now and wait to do something more formal when we have more solid information as to what the State and EPA will decide on for rules and acceptable levels.

OTHER:

Next scheduled regular meeting: June 26, 2023 @ 6:00 PM.

Adjournment: 8:25 pm.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

- 2022.04 Storm Water & Spill Prevention Plans
- Route 100 TIF (South)
- Planning for the future/CIP programming
- G.I.S.
- Search for new water source
- Pineland System

Respectfully submitted,
Sudiek Lester, Office Manager