

**GRAY WATER DISTRICT
TRUSTEES MEETING
October 30, 2023
Location: 80 Shaker Rd**

Present: Bruce Sawyer, Joe Murray, Mike MacDonald, John Roy, Mitch Berkowitz, and Superintendent Bill Gardner. Fire Chief Kurt Elkanich was also present. Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Average gallons per day (AGD) for pumps 1&2 was 347,433. AGD for Pump 3 was 48,712.
2. Monthly samples for September were absent of bacteria.
3. Our new employee, Steven Seneca, started on October 25th.
4. 9/26 Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) requested a new service for a new building they are constructing. We are waiting for them to say they are ready.
5. 10/11 We completed a 2" tap and two 1" services for Jason Manly at 52 Lewiston Rd. The drilling under Rt 100 was done earlier this year. When we went to turn on the water, we found that the corporation was never turned on. We will have to dig that back up and turn it on.
6. 10/13 We had a pre-bid meeting for the Turnpike/West Gray Rd project. There was a good turnout. The meeting was mandatory for anyone who wants to bid on the project. The deadline for submission of bids was extended for a week due to the shooting in Lewiston.
7. 10/17 Paving was done on Whitney Rd. We hired Storey Brothers to raise the valves for us.
8. We have received the report from Trident, the company that did the inspection on the Weeks Hill Standpipe earlier this summer.
9. We requested and received two quotes from the company that did our porches. One quote to finish the generator building repairs that were started years ago and the other quote is to fix the window sills on the office. Bare bones work on the generator building is \$6,400. Sill and other work on main office is \$6,690.
10. We have found a shelter for the yard machine. It is sold by The Shelter Man in Windham. It is a 30x30x17 building for \$11,995.00 with an installation price of \$2900.00. We will need a concrete slab for the building at an additional \$10,000.
Motion/Second by Murray/MacDonald to go ahead with this building, the site work, and a slab. Vote to approve was unanimous.
11. Our latest PFAS test results have come back a little lower than last year.
12. 10/27 We signed another contract for electricity with Constellation Energy. The price was much lower than other potential suppliers.
13. Our Terms & Conditions need to be updated for jobbing/service rates. Now that we have an experienced operator, we can do some of our own taps much cheaper than hiring a contractor each time. Updating the T&C is necessary to give us the ability to charge appropriately for the work. We will speak to Cathy Robinson at Maine Rural Water about the best way to structure our fees.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee MacDonald reported that he attended a Town meeting regarding the “Village Transformation.” They did not discuss Yarmouth Rd. Trustee MacDonald did interject to say that we will have to upgrade valve boxes and install a stub at Center and Yarmouth Roads as a part of that project. This likely will not happen for five years.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landfill Test Well Results:

Office Manager reported that she emailed Doug Webster of the Town of Gray on the landfill test well results but has not heard back.

ACTION: Office Manager to reach out to the Town Manager.

Turnpike Crossing / West Gray Rd Main Replacement Projects:

This was covered in Superintendents report.

ACTION:

YWD Well Pumping Test Site:

YWD testing showed the presence of PFAS. Fully developing these wells will require three phase power which is some distance away in either direction and would cost 2.5 to 3 million to install. Project is not feasible at this time.

ACTION: Remove from agenda.

State Land Water Source:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: Move this item to open items.

Gerald’s Way Main Extension:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None.

Spill and Stormwater Plan reports:

Nothing new to report this month.

ACTION: Trustee Murray to review and report back.

Injection/Treatment Facility:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None

Yarmouth Water District (YWD) Solar Farm:

Project on hold with YWD. Info to date indicates it would not be cost effective for us to join in on the project at this time.

ACTION: Remove from agenda.

USDA Grant: Shaker Rd:

Superintendent Gardner reported that he has separated this project into phases due to its size.

ACTION: None

10" Main on Yarmouth Rd:

Superintendent Gardner reported that he has figured the probable cost for the replacement of this 1100' section of main at \$545,000. This is something we will likely have to bond.

ACTION: None

L.D.2003 (now Public Law 672):

A letter giving our strong objection to including wellhead protection areas in proposed ordinance changes for housing density was emailed to the interim Town Manager, Josh Tiffany. A hard copy was also mailed to the interim Town Manager. We have not received any response. Trustees discussed that the letter should be sent to state representatives as well.

ACTION: Trustee MacDonald will draft a cover letter.

Meadowview II:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None

Lewiston Rd Project:

Superintendent Gardner reported that the grant application has been submitted and our engineer is working on finalizing some aspects of the project plan.

ACTION: None.

Antenna MOU Dry Mills Standpipe:

Fire Chief Elkanich was present to discuss portions of the MOU that the Town's Lawyer wants in the MOU that our lawyer does not. Trustees, Superintendent and Fire Chief discussed at length and decided to go ahead with the language that the Town Attorney wants with some additional clarification by our Attorney.

Motion/Second by Murray/MacDonald to authorize the Superintendent to contact our attorney and ask him to go ahead with the additional clarification so we can get this document completed. Vote to approve was unanimous.

ACTION: Superintendent to send document back to attorney for further clarification.

Scott Liberty Main Ext.:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: None

Grover Pit House Water Service:

Superintendent Gardner met with George Froehlich, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer for Town of Gray. Mr. Froehlich said he is working with the council to get the service approved.

ACTION: None

Backflow Preventer Testing:

Superintendent Gardner reported that he has reached out to Dean & Allen about testing but has not heard back yet. Trustees and Superintendent discussed the need for a policy.

ACTION: Trustee Murray to draft policy.

Revision Energy Solar:

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: Office Manager to get copy of Deed to land on Shaker Rd.

NEW BUSINESS:

S.L. Environmental Law Group:

Trustees and Superintendent had a zoom meeting with Paul Napoli of S.L. Environmental Law Group regarding class action suits against Dupont and 3M for PFAS contamination of drinking water. He explained that the deadlines to join in with these two suits are coming right up in early December so we will need to decide quickly if we want to participate.

There will also be future suits against 12 other manufacturers in the future. If we sign on with his firm, we would receive an amount based on how many other plaintiffs there are. Trustees discussed that we need to have our lawyer look at the contract before we decide.

ACTION: Superintendent Gardner to send contract to our Attorney.

Deer Brook Extension:

Superintendent Gardner reported that a developer wants to build six houses down in Deer Brook. He assumed he could just extend the service line that currently serves apartment buildings there. Superintendent Gardner explained that it must be a main extension and it will have to include hydrants.

ACTION: None

BRIC Grant:

Originally, we thought we could apply for a 100% grant for a new generator but FEMA is no longer funding that one. There is now a 'Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities' (BRIC) grant that will cover 75%. The deadline for this grant is January 15th.

ACTION: Superintendent Gardner to submit application for BRIC grant.

OTHER:

Next scheduled regular meeting: November 27, 2023 @ 6:00 PM.

Adjournment: 9:20 pm.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

- Route 100 TIF (South)
- Planning for the future/CIP programming
- G.I.S.
- Search for new water source
- Pineland System
- Front fencing/parking
- TIF-Town Project Discussions
- 10" Main on Yarmouth Rd
- Woodcock Dr. Phase II
- State Land Water Source (fish hatchery)

Respectfully submitted,

Sudiek Lester, Office Manager