

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

April 8, 2021

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Doug Mohr, Jay Klemetsrud, Les Windjue, Paul Becker, David Hovendick, Allen Johnson, Gilbert Black

OTHERS PRESENT: Nels Halgren, Sally Herda – GRWD; Sarah Sesselman, AE₂S

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by President Becker at the District office.

Minutes from the March 4, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Windjue to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager Report

- **Transmission line break** – A break occurred yesterday (April 7) afternoon, with full service to be restored by noon today. The location of the break was in the same area as in the past. A line loop in the area by the lodge would help to keep 5 users on line, but would still leave the rest area out of service until repairs are made. This would be an alternate to the valve placement that would isolate an additional area if breaks continue.
- **Crary contract agreement review** – The contract agreement reviewed and revised by attorney Kelly Swenseth was given to the directors for input. A copy has been delivered to Crary's auditor for their next meeting, scheduled for April 13. Hydrants in the town have been oiled and staff will open them during spring flushing. Halgren reported there is a 2-inch line at the fire department that could be used to fill tanks for firefighting purposes. No radio work was completed this past month, staff will work to complete the few that remain. Crary has been reading their own meters the past couple months and should be able to provide some loss numbers for the District to review.
- **RRVWSP meeting update** – Representatives from the RRVWSP met with area water systems to provide an update on progress of the project. Details of the project, along with anticipated costs of the main line for construction, maintenance, renewal and rehabilitation were presented. Costs for the branch line that would be needed to bring water up to this area were not included in the scope of work. Halgren, Becker, Johnson and Hovendick attended this meeting. The presenters were seeking a show of support and participation from systems in this area. Halgren, along with the City of Devils Lake and other northeastern North Dakota area water systems met April 7 to discuss the RRVWSP and to determine if the area would be better served through a cooperative effort of these entities. Water usage, water permits and available water resources as a whole were discussed with the next step to see how the systems could interconnect to serve the area as a whole. Aquifer studies show a substantial, unappropriated supply of water west of Devils Lake that could be encompassed into an area plan. The directors indicated they were interested in working together with area water systems to secure a stable long term water supply. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Windjue to draw up a letter to be sent to RRVWSP informing them that GRWD is stepping out of the project. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Cost of service study proposal** – Sarah Sesselman, AE₂S met with the directors with a proposal to conduct a cost-of-service analysis. Sesselman had been working with the office to obtain the District's information for a quick analysis of operations and rates. The initial analysis included the District's information on a very basic level and following a preliminary presentation to the office and one of the directors, Sesselman was invited to share the analysis and present a proposal to conduct a cost-of-service analysis (COSA).

The proposal provides two options - basic or comprehensive on the water side and a basic COSA for the sewer. The COSA will provide the District with a method that can be used in the future to aid in the rate setting process and takes into consideration full cost pricing, equitability, renewal, revenue stability and predictable rate adjustments. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Windjue to accept the proposal for the comprehensive water system COSA (\$41,449) and the basic sewer system COSA (\$13,356). All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Sesselman will put the agreement together, along with the initial information request for the May meeting.

- **Sewer lining update** – Innovative Foundations contacted Halgren and stated they had a couple of weeks available for sewer work. Four manholes along the Krafts Corral road were coated with Zebron. Lift station and manhole at Eagle Bend was scheduled for the second week. Budget amount for the work was \$30,000 and quote came in at \$26,975.
- **Webster area spray season planning** – Halgren worked up a cost estimate to set up a temporary booster to assist during peak spray season demand to an area that has issues every year during peak demand. Cost was approximately \$10,000 and other options were discussed including in-house boosters and flow restrictors. Another option discussed was to place a valve on the six-inch line at Garske to split the system and to purchase more water from Northeast Regional Water District (NRWD). Halgren was directed to move ahead with the valve placement option that would place everyone north of Garske on NRWD and reevaluate at the end of the season to determine the effect of redirecting the water flows in this manner.

Office Manager Report

- **Accounts Payable** – Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hovendick to authorize payment of the March bills. **All directors voted aye and motion carried.**

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	72,867.82	15,241.69

- **Financial report**– Financial report for March was reviewed. Motion by Black seconded by Mohr to approve the report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 10:08 a.m.

Minutes Approved: _____ May 6, 2021 _____

Paul Becker, President _____ (signed) _____

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed) _____