

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

June 10, 2021

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Nels Halgren, Sally Herda – GRWD; Neal Ackerman; Chris & Jeff Wahl, Lucas Wakefield – Emerald Ridge

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

Minutes from the May 6, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Klemetsrud, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager Report

- **Neal Ackerman development request** – Ackerman met with the board to discuss options of installing a main line through the rest of his residential platted lots. Approximately 4,500 feet of line would need to be installed, along with tying into another main to achieve looping. Approximate cost for the line installation is approximately \$40,000. Previous discussion was reviewed with District’s approval limited to 1,200 feet of line installation with a 5-membership requirement. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Windjue to cost share the construction with a \$3,000 cost share per membership. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Ackerman elected to take 6 memberships for an \$18,000 cost share of the construction costs. The commercial area was also reviewed. Previous discussion had approved a 50% cost share of 1,000 feet, with a 3-membership requirement. Approximately, 360 feet of line has been installed and one membership received. Plans are to tie in two lots for service and install a line down the main road to allow connections to be made as development occurs. The cost share of 1,000 feet total with three memberships will continue to be honored with either type of construction method.
- **Emerald Ridge Subdivision preliminary plat discussion** – Lucas Wakefield, Jeff Wahl and Chris Wahl met with the board to discuss a preliminary plat for Emerald Ridge Subdivision. Approximately 50 acres is being purchased and is in the City’s 2-mile jurisdiction. The north end of the subdivision would be Phase 1. GRWD has operated under the County ordinance that requires connection to public sewers if the property line is located within 400 feet to the public sewer. At this time, the developers are putting together cost projections on rural sewer vs. drainfields. As this is in the City’s extraterritorial jurisdiction, they may not allow drainfields to be constructed. A review of the District’s water and sewer lines show where both services could be run from Frison to connect to the subdivision and there was discussion on how to serve the entire subdivision. Creation of a special assessment district was mentioned as a possibility to finance the infrastructure and the timeline of this process was reviewed. The developers will work with the City to determine design requirements for the water and will work with the premise of connecting to the rural sewer. If any roadblocks are encountered during this process, they will come back to the District.
- **Theft of service violation – using water without meter** – Halgren reported discovery of a new hookup that was using water without a meter. The plumber “wanted to test pressure” on the new line when performing plumbing work and did so without using a meter. The new user was also concerned with low pressure on his line and Halgren had initially warned him that this could be an issue as there are 5 users on a 2-inch line and

the new user is at the end of the line. Both the plumber and homeowner were aware that the meter was not connected. This is also the second time the plumber has connected water without a meter. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Hovendick to assess a \$100 fine to both the homeowner and the plumber. Upon roll call vote, all directors voted aye and **motion carried**. If the plumber does not pay the assessed fine, the District may take further action to ban him from any work on the system.

- **Oswalds Bay service review** – The District has received some calls from this area requesting more pressure and staff has been on site to run some pressure tests. Pressures have been found to be at 70+psi and seems to be okay. There is still some cleanup work left to complete. A leak in the line by the airport was fixed on the 9th of June.
- **Crary contract signing** – The City of Crary signed the contract for the transfer of ownership, operation, maintenance and management of their water system at their June 9 meeting. Motion by Windjue, seconded by Black authorizing president Becker to sign the contract accepting the transfer of the Crary system. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. There are 4 meters remaining to be programmed to the radio read system.
- **South system water use/buyout discussion** – The District had some trouble maintaining the level of the south tower and has made some adjustments to the South VFD to handle the increased demand for water due to cattle, lawn watering and spraying. Water use from Carrington was also reviewed – the District is under contract for 50,000 gpd and at times has been at 100,000 gpd. The Kensal elevator had called Stutsman Rural Water as they were not getting the amount of water they wanted, which in turn prompted a call from Stutsman’s manager. With Stutsman’s recent expansion, their manager reached out to the District to inquire about the possibility of buying out the lines in those areas within their District, which would include Kensal. Kensal is close to the end of their contract with GRWD, so the timing could work out if the District is interested.
- **Drought management discussion** – Due to the drought conditions this year, there has been unprecedented demand for water. GRWD is taking as much as it can from the City of Devils Lake. At Starkweather, GRWD is receiving 50 gpm from NRWD and for a while was at 75 gpm, but that was cut back. Halgren reviewed adjustments the District has made to address pressures and flows throughout the system. The next couple of weeks are anticipated to have large demands for spraying. The state has provided some drought assistance grants to livestock producers for pasture tap hookups and several connections have been made. There have also been a lot of new membership requests this year for water service. Pasture taps are supposed to be flow restricted users and in the past flow restrictors haven’t been put in the meter pits. An inventory could be taken to determine which ones are flow restricted and the ones that aren’t.

Office Manager Report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	100,923.93	10,783.67

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes Approved: _____ July 8, 2021 _____

Paul Becker, President _____ (signed)

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed)