

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

March 4, 2021

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Gilbert Black

OTHERS PRESENT: Nels Halgren, Sally Herda – GRWD; Karen Olson – Ferguson Waterworks, Fargo

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m. by President Becker at the District office.

Minutes from the February 9, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Hovendick to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager Report

- **Tri-County/Lakota usage review** – Halgren reviewed usage through the Tri-County connection. Usage has run approximately 48,000 gallons per day between Tri-County and Lakota. After the cold snap, the usage jumped to 80-90,000 per day and has even gone past the 100,000-gallon mark at times. Tri-County's usage has remained constant, so attention was directed to Lakota. Lakota's tower had frozen and had gotten resolved, but there was still significant flow likely signaling a leak. Halgren talked to one of the Council members from Lakota and they were going to check into the matter.
- **AMR review** – Karen Olson from Ferguson Waterworks met with the directors to discuss the meter reading system in use by the District and to discuss alternate methods of collecting readings. The software in use at the present time will no longer be supported next year. Ferguson had provided Halgren with a proposal for updated software and receivers. Neptune is moving to a cloud and internet-based system. The current licensing limitations of 1 local computer having the software was compared to the availability to data at all times in the cloud-based environment. Their upgraded system uses Amazon web services that provides a secure environment to store data for 2 years. Hybrid methods for meter reading were also discussed through use of cellular-based models. Discussion was held on the use of a fixed base system. Neptune will provide a free propagation study, a computer-based evaluation to look at how many meters can be read through this process. Some systems use the fixed network, and drive to the more remote areas of the system that can't feasibly be read through the fixed base system. The board requested the quote be redone with the software and 1 MRX and to have Neptune conduct a fixed base system study.
- **Construction policy review** – The construction from the 2020 season for individual memberships was reviewed, along with the construction cost share policy. Average length of pipe installed was 68 feet from main to curb stop. Commercial connections (subdivisions, developers, etc.) will continue to be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Nodak Electric's construction policy was reviewed and discussed. Also reviewed was Garrison Diversion's proposed water assistance grant guidelines that they will consider for approval at their April meeting. Discussion was held on setting a reduced base rate for those making connection to the system without any financial assistance. The board will continue to consider options for cost share assistance for new connections to the system.

- **Red River Valley Water Supply (RRVWS) meeting date approval** – RRVWS has requested a meeting with GRWD to provide an update on the project. Several dates were provided. Halgren will set up the meeting to include a couple of board members.
- **Lake Agassiz Water Authority dues approval** – The directors discussed the dues request; no action was taken.
- **Crary contract agreement, water users agreement review** – A draft copy of the agreement prepared by Halgren had been sent out to the directors for input and comments. The meter reading equipment was returned to Crary’s auditor and they were able to successfully read their system the first of the month. With the reading system operational, Crary should be able to track their system and provide water loss information to the District. The list of meters that District staff weren’t able to access was turned back over to Crary at this time. The water users agreement has been modified with installation language removed. Motion by Windjue, seconded by Klemetsrud to have an attorney review the agreement and place on the agenda for action at the April meeting. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Office Manager Report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	67,787.27	11,469.81

- **Financial report**– Financial report for February was reviewed. Motion by Johnson seconded by Windjue to approve the report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Pledge of assets report** - Report for December 31, 2020 was reviewed by the directors. Motion to approve the report was made by Klemetsrud, seconded by Hovendick. **Motion carried** unanimously.

Membership Termination

- Timothy & Haley Melville – Block 59, Lot 3 Starkweather – Motion to terminate membership for nonpayment was made by Windjue, seconded by Johnson. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Other Business

- **By-laws review** – Directors continued review of the bylaws.

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

Minutes Approved: _____ April 8, 2021 _____

Paul Becker, President _____ (signed) _____

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed) _____