

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

April 3, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Paul Becker, Kale Miller, Allen Johnson, Doug Mohr, Gilbert Black, David Hovendick, Missy Abrahamson

OTHERS PRESENT: Lonnie Lacina, Sally Herda, Krista Wold - GRWD; Brian Aafedt – AE₂S

The meeting was called to order at 7:58 a.m. by President Johnson at the District office.

Minutes from the March 6, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Mohr to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager report

- **Excavator** – The excavator is in and should be available for delivery the week of April 7.
- **Geode, camera, locator and shoring purchase** – Lacina reported purchase of new geode for GIS work with cost to be included in the North System project. Favorable pricing was received for the geode and will replace other equipment that has become outdated. Also purchased separately were a camera, locator and shoring that will be used in construction and repair work of the system, particularly in the sewer.
- **State budget changes** – Oil tax revenues are projected to be significantly reduced as the extraction tax will be waived on stripper wells and continuing to be waived when the stripper well is developed beyond that designation. This will affect funding from the state level that has previously been made available throughout the state for cities, infrastructure, etc.
- **Water loss – line testing** – Line testing work has continued in efforts to locate the source of water loss in the north system. One hydrant was found to be leaking and staff is continuing to check line throughout the area.
- **North system capacity improvement project**

➤ **AE₂S project update**

Facility – The Saunders Booster will be filled with water this week and will take 7-10 days to be placed into service. When completed, the project punch list will be worked on, then final remote SCADA cut overs will be completed. The lift stations were cut over to the new SCADA during March. A change order will be presented for external disconnects at the lift stations to come into compliance with code. Approximate cost of \$10-12,000 is anticipated. Other small items will be incorporated into a change order as the project winds down. No payment applications from the contractors were submitted this month.

Notification to potential users for service availability for bulk water purchase at the Saunders booster was discussed. Contact has been primarily word of mouth at this time; local elevators will also be contacted.

Project budget was reviewed.

- **User expansion project**
 - **AE₂S project update** – Submittals are being finalized at this time and the project is on track for summer construction. Highway crossing permits are in the works and there is one railroad crossing permit that will be needed. There are currently 9 applications on the wait list. One of the users is in a low-pressure area and not feasible. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Hovendick to return the sign-up fee less \$50 to

Hallwachs due to service not being feasible. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Estimated cost of \$20,000 per wait-listed user will be reduced with the return of the one sign-up. Change order in May or June will pull the waitlisted users into the project.

Lengthy discussion was held on service to a couple of subdivision areas. In the past, developers included in project construction have been required to supply one membership for every 3 lots and a monthly base rate on each membership. Memberships are then transferred as lots are sold. Ackerman Acres has two areas with 28 and 12 lots, respectively. Taylor Aasmundstad is looking at a potential of 57 lots in some preliminary subdivision work, though this area may not be ready for water service during the timeframe of the project. Lacina stated Kyle Blanchfield is also looking at a development area. A review of the contingency funding Lacina and Aafedt will continue working on the subdivision areas that could potentially be included in the project.

Project budget was reviewed.

April invoices – Motion by Becker, seconded by Miller to approve project invoices: AE₂S (\$42,939.12) and 2 highway crossing permits (\$1,100, \$100) for a total of \$44,139.12. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Office manager report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	130,588.63	22,362.79

- **Financial report** – March financial report was reviewed. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Herda to authorize Johnson and Herda to invest \$1,000,000 for 6-mo or 1-year term following rate quotes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Black to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Project reports for the current improvement projects were reviewed.

Membership termination

- Peterson-Rime-Lafferty – 3 lots in Peterson Woods 5th Sub – no plans to develop. Motion by Becker, seconded by Hovendick to approve the membership terminations. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Other Business

- **COSA** – Becker, Mohr and Abrahamson, along with Lacina and Herda met with AE₂S to review the working copy for the COSA for use going forward in long-term planning and rate setting. An updated copy of the COSA will be provided to the District based on changes that were discussed during the training session. The COSA identifies significant changes to some of the commercial rates may be upcoming. Some of the commercial rates may be tied to water purchase agreements currently in place.

Next regular board meeting will be held May 8, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 9:44 am.

Minutes Approved: _____ May 8, 2025

Allen Johnson, President _____ (signed)

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed)