

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

April 9, 2024

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Paul Becker, David Hovendick, Allen Johnson, Missy Abrahamson, Kevin Engel, Doug Mohr

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Gilbert Black

OTHERS PRESENT: Lonnie Lacina, Sally Herda - GRWD; Brian Aafedt – AE₂S; Chris Berg, Cathy Johnson – service reactivation

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Mohr at the District office.

Minutes from the March 7, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Becker to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager report

- **North system capacity improvement project**
 - **AE₂S project update** – Pipeline mobilization for this construction season could happen as early as next week. AE₂S will be in closer contact with the contractor to avoid issues from the 2023 construction season. Facility shop drawings review by AE₂S has been substantially completed with Aafedt reporting communications with the contractors has been excellent. The electrical contractor will start with remote sites once parts come in. An anticipated start date for the Saunders Booster is June 1. SCADA programming at AE₂S is in progress. Pay estimate #1 for John's Refrigeration in the amount of \$37,512.35 for stored materials and mobilization was presented for payment. Also presented for payment was AE₂S bill in the amount of \$28,544.00. No change order items have occurred in the last month. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Abrahamson to approve both invoices for payment. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. The additional well installed late last year needs to be flushed and tested before bringing into the treatment plant. Power and plant work needs to be completed before the well can be brought in and placed on-line. Time frame for this will be closer to the end of the year. Project budget and progress to date were reviewed.

EPA/SRF funding/canvas/user expansion – The predesign request was approved by the state. Interest in the project continues to come in with 11 new services inquiries in the past month. Task order #5 to the AE₂S engineering agreement for \$125,000 was presented to the directors for approval. The task order covers the preliminary design work for the user expansion project including study/report, preliminary routing & estimating, signups, etc. GRWD has gotten moved up on the list due to emergent contaminants found in well testing of those interested in service. Project timeline and funding sources were reviewed. Mailings will go out to interested parties to request signup monies to move the project forward. Deadline of June 30 will be given to sign-up for service. Informational meetings will be set up to provide more information and sign-up opportunities. Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Johnson authorizing the president to sign Task Order #5 in the amount of \$125,000 to Advanced Engineering for the preliminary design phase of the user expansion. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. There were a couple of potential users responding that would be best served from Tri-County's system. In the past when GRWD has worked with adjacent systems, the system that serves the customers on a day-to-day basis pays the non-grant portion of the customer installation completed on

another system's project. Public information meetings for the new expansion project will be set up for the second week in June.

Lead and copper – Aafedt reported that information to date on the lead and copper assessment was submitted April 5. Approximately 600 connections are still listed as unknown, but the District may be able to eliminate more that would require follow-up.

Event Center – Service for the event center located at Woodland Resort was discussed and mapping of lines in the area were referenced. Lacina outlined a couple of options for the water service. Line testing in the area indicated 27gpm max and lines would not be adequate to provide fire protection. Fire suppression would need to come from underground storage tanks. Lacina proposed capping a 6-inch water line that is too deep for maintenance and rerouting four services from the opposite side of the gate valve and the event center to run their service from that point to their facility. Lacina estimated it would require approximately 360 feet of line to be installed. Usage requirements for the event center have not been provided to the District and system hydraulics in general were discussed. Lacina will get some numbers put together for the next meeting for the rerouted services. There was also discussion on the rural sewer in this area. Lacina stated he would like the deep sewer line brought up, tying in Gowan's tank to this line and for Woodland to make connection there as well. No application for either water or sewer service has been made to the District at this time.

- **RRWSP meeting** – Meeting date has been changed to April 15 at City Hall. Lacina reported that Carrington has signed onto the project and expressed his concern that costs for the RRWSP project could be reflected in future water purchased by GRWD as a contract user of Carrington. Lacina has reached out to Stutsman Rural Water to inquire about availability for them as a backup for water purchase.
- **Network Center** – Herda reported transition to Network Center has been made. There is still some training to be completed, as well as results of the security assessment, but overall transition has gone smoothly and a good rapport is being created with their team.
- **Unemployment appeal** – Following the hearing, the State has ruled in the District's favor and the time to appeal the decision has passed.
- **Old Dodge** – The new pickup has arrived and is a ¾ ton Ford fitted with a 5th wheel plate. The old dodge was not included in the trade. Lacina plans to keep this new truck for District use for a number of years and not place it in the rotation for trade.
- **Backhoe/excavator** – Lacina reported that he will be trading in the Bobcat for a new one as in the past. Bobcat has agreed to trade for \$3,000 for this year and has committed to the same for the 2025 purchase.

Office manager report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	175,178.79	33,619.81

- **Financial report-** March financial report was reviewed and discussed. Lacina stated he has been looking for water loss in the North area. Several lines have been checked and staff will continue searching for loss. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Becker to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**
- **2023 audit** – Audit is still ongoing and is nearing completion.

- **CD's due** – Two CD's have come due and renewal bids were reviewed. Motion by Becker, seconded by Johnson to invest \$2 million with Bremer Bank for a 6-month term. **Motion carried.**

Membership Termination

- **Kaycee Herrick/Berg** – Starkweather, 102 4th Ave – request to payback/reactivate water service – Connie Johnson and Chris Berg met with the directors to discuss reactivation of service for the above referenced property. Property is in estate at this time with Berg in the process of purchasing from the estate and he has a renter. Since the membership termination, the past due amount, plus the cost of the meter has been turned over to collections on another family member that was registered on the account. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hovendick to accept payment of \$1500 to reactivate the account with the collection amount to be cancelled if the meter is in full working order. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**
- **Lisa Kjorsvik – 2726 Highway 19** – nonpayment
Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Abrahamson to terminate membership for nonpayment. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Next regular board meeting will be held May 9, 2024. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 10 am.

Minutes Approved: _____ May 9, 2024 _____

Doug Mohr, President _____ (signed) _____

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed) _____