

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

March 10, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Nels Halgren, Sally Herda, Lonnie Lacina – GRWD; Kyle Blanchfield -
Woodland Resort; Lucas Aufenkamp – Lakewood Bible Camp

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

Minutes from the February 10, 2022 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Black, seconded by Windjue to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager Report

- **Woodland Resort** – Kyle Blanchfield met with the District to discuss his operations and service from the District. Blanchfield expressed his appreciation for the good business relationship he has with GRWD and how vital reliable water and sewer service is to his operation. Recent discussion concerning a potential switch to a volumetric charge on the sewer was discussed in more detail and Blanchfield expressed his appreciation in how the District has worked with him as his operation has expanded and changed over the years. There was also discussion on how Woodland could tie some of their water lines together and install a master meter, eliminating some of the current meters.
- **Lakewood Park Bible Camp** – Lucas Aufenkamp met with the directors to discuss their sewer usage, operations and to request a 50% reduction of the 2022 sewer rate increase (\$5 per tank instead of \$10). He stated a change to a volumetric basis for calculating the sewer fee would be a more desired method as their water usage is minimal from November through May. Aufenkamp also updated the board on current operations of the camp as well as future plans. Some of the buildings are being torn down and replaced with increased capacity of approximately 5% for the future. District staff has worked with Aufenkamp in utilizing existing infrastructure within their property to extend service to some of the new areas. A map of the area was reviewed and potential options for sewer service considered to see if any of the tanks could be taken out of service. There are a couple of tanks that aren't used much and could be taken off if the Bible Camp would maintain them. Halgren and Lacina will work with Aufenkamp to identify options to reduce the number of tanks the District maintains.
- **Tri-County bulk rate meeting discussion** – Halgren and Mohr met with Tri-County manager Mike Blessum and board member Scott Nelson to discuss water rates and service. Slides from COSA were used to compare their average bill to COSA calculated fixed and volumetric rates, a breakdown of the rate components, rate alignment discounting depreciation, and average monthly bill impact of \$.16 to TCWD customers. The contract was reviewed along with the impact of usage throughout the year and especially during peak demand. TCWD did not provide an answer to the amount of the water they wanted. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Johnson to offer a 3-year rate of \$5.00/1000 gallons and a base rate of \$300 for 75 gpm provided this increase is not greater than that of Camp Grafton. The 3-year rate would coincide with the term remaining on the contract, at which time the contract term is up. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Halgren will put a letter together for TCWD to provide the 60-day notice for rate change. The rate could be reduced if less capacity would be requested.

- **Northern Steel tank bid** – Northern Steel was contacted to address the issues identified during inspection of the south tower and to provide a bid for corrective work. Lacina reviewed the inspection report, along with the proposal to reseal the tank interior seams with added options for exterior reseal, installation of magnesium anodes and replacement of vent with reinforced lid. Both AE₂S and Bartlett & West like the work done by this company. Northern Steel has done a lot of work for Southwest Water in past years. Lacina stated the completion of the interior work was most critical and the District could hold off for 2-3 years for the exterior work. Halgren and Lacina will work with Northern Steel to check into the option to complete the interior work, along with the reinforced lid during this budget year. This would keep the total cost within the budgeted amount.
- **City of Pekin water system discussion** – Halgren reported he has been in contact with the City of Pekin, most recently to inform them of the 2022 rate changes. During this contact, Pekin has indicated that they may be interested in turning over their distribution system over to the District and change from a bulk user to individual users within the city. Halgren will start the process to make an assessment of their existing facilities and pipeline.
- **City booster meeting update** – Halgren updated the board on meeting held with AE₂S, City of Devils Lake and NRWD. GRWD and NRWD have both indicated interest in purchasing additional water from the City. A City booster station is the most likely scenario to deliver additional water and if application for funding is made, a request for a regionally-based facility is likely to be viewed more favorably. Another meeting has been scheduled for March 16 and Halgren requested the presence of a director. Klemetsrud stated he would attend. GRWD’s share for capital obligations under the City of Devils Lake agreement is 14%. There was also conversation to study availability of water west of Devils Lake and for possible consideration of this water for backup. All parties at the meeting were interested in studying this option further.
- **Request for new membership category – existing curb stop reinstatement** – Halgren has received requests for a reduced membership rate on applications to reinstate a viable existing curb stop. The current membership rate covers the cost of the materials and meter. The material cost is saved when existing curb stops are reactivated. Motion by Becker, seconded by Black to charge 75% of the membership fee for reinstatement of viable existing curb stops. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Determination will be made by staff on a case by case basis to determine viability the curb stop.

Office Manager Report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	119,718.63	12,545.78

- **Financial report-** Financial report for February was reviewed. Motion by Becker, seconded by Johnson to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Pledge of assets report for December 31, 2021** – Pledging report for the December 31, 2021 balances were reviewed. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Black to approve the pledging report for December 31, 2021. **Motion carried.**
- **2021 audit** – Herda reported the 2021 audit was started in February. The State is using a different format this year and since GRWD has closed its records for 2021, records are being submitted for the audit.

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

Minutes Approved: April 7, 2022

David Hovendick, President (signed by Gilbert Black, vice-president)

Sally Herda, Office Manager (signed)