

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

March 7, 2024

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Paul Becker, Gilbert Black, Allen Johnson, Missy Abrahamson,
Kevin Engel

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Doug Mohr, David Hovendick

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Vice President Johnson at the District office.

Minutes from the February 8, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Black, seconded by Abrahamson to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Manager report

- **North system capacity improvement project**

- **AE₂S project update** – Pipeline construction is expected to start in a month or two, depending on weather. Completion date is August, 2024, but contractor has indicated they have other work and would like to get this completed early in the construction season.

Facility Construction – Shop drawings are currently being reviewed, with construction to begin in a couple of months depending on weather and delivery of materials. American General Contractors is planning to begin at the Saunders booster station. SCADA programming work is in progress at AE₂S, with current work being completed in office. No significant changes need to be added to the facility change order list. A filter control power phasing was added to the electrical contract bringing the total contingency used to \$14,697.40. Contingency monies will be added into the budget when the change order is approved.

EPA/SRF funding/canvas/user expansion – Predesign request has been sent into the state. Work on the proposed user expansion is on hold until the SWC acts on the request. Interest in new water service locations continues to come in and will be considered in the project. An additional 8 or 9 have been added since the request was made to the State. The District will continue to forward names and locations for new service locations to be added in the project.

Lead and copper – Aafedt has compiled a listing of users requiring additional information in order for those services to be compliant with the service inventory. Staff has been scheduling appointments for meter inspections, meter photos and any additional information for use in the survey and/or office use to update account information.

Tri-County new users – A couple of interested users responding to the canvassing in the new user expansion may be located in Tri-County's service area. Lacina asked if the District would connect the users with Tri-County paying the non-grant portion and turn the users over to Tri-County. Prior to making contact with Tri-County, the proposed locations will be verified against the District boundaries.

- **Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA)/Carrington/Stutsman** – GRWD has declined participation in the project. Lacina reported that Carrington has signed on and is concerned about what it could do to the cost of purchasing water from the City. Lacina

will be meeting with Geneva Kaiser, Stutsman Rural Water manager/Garrison Division Conservancy District board member to discuss this project and its local impact.

- **Corporate Technologies/Network Center** – A proposal was received from Network Center and was presented to the directors for approval. Lacina and Herda highlighted some of the items in the proposal, particularly in the security component. Network Center is also offering a base security assessment, a \$1500 value if proposal is approved in March. Both Lacina and Herda felt Network Center was more attuned to meet the District’s needs than Corporate Technology and recommend approval of the proposal. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Black to approve the Network Center proposal. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Lake Access** – Lacina presented a cost analysis of the Lake Access committee service accounts and also provided a listing of similar accounts. All the other accounts currently pay a base water base rate as well as full price for water used. By contrast, GRWD is only charging a \$12 per account annual base rate and only the Lakewood service account is paying a sewer fee. Costs the District incurs at these sites were also reviewed and Lacina recommended these accounts be treated as any other customer. Motion by Becker, seconded by Abrahamson to charge the full base rate for water and sewer and to charge \$4/1000 gallons for water used. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Motion by Black, seconded by Becker to remove the Highway Department and golf course from the listing and to approve a water rate of \$4/1000 gallons for the remainder of the accounts on the listing with rate change effective May 1, 2024. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Rate change for Lake Access accounts will also be effective May 1, 2024.
- **Job Service hearing** – Hearing is scheduled for March 8, 2024. Lacina stated all is going well with the new hires.

Office manager report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	92,867.00	17,419.20

- **Financial report-** February financial report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Engel to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **2023 audit** – Herda reported that the 2023 audit is currently in progress as the State had a time opening for the audit to begin. The cost proposal for audit services was reviewed as this is a new process that has been implemented by the State.

Membership Termination

- Kaycee Herrick – Starkweather, 102 4th Ave – nonpayment
 - Chase Nygaard – 205 South St NE, Crary – nonpayment
- Motion by Becker, seconded by Black to terminate the two memberships for nonpayment. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Next regular board meeting will be held April 4, 2024. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 9:37 am.

Minutes Approved: _____ April 9, 2024 _____

Allen Johnson, Vice President _____ (signed by Doug Mohr, President)

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed)