

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Warner Village Water District Commissioners  
3:30 P.M. on  
December 4, 2024 at the Treatment Plant

Present: Dan Lavoie, Shaun Murphy, and Herm Blanchette, Commissioners; Ray Martin, Administrator; Chuck Come, Superintendent; and Jim McLaughlin, Clerk. Also in attendance, Charlie Albano, District resident.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held on October 23, 2024 were approved as submitted. Also, the minutes for the meeting on November 13th were approved.

**Copper Reduction Project Discussion**

Charlie offered some thoughts concerning the proposed project to bring the treatment plant's effluent into compliance with EPA's new standard for copper. He urged the Commissioners to hold a public meeting before any funding proposal is brought before the Annual Meeting in March, in view of the small number of residents who typically attend. This will serve to inform a larger number of residents about the impact of what is being presented by the District's engineers.

Charlie next recommended that the Commissioners contact the three Congressional delegation members to inform them of the impending financial burden that the District is facing, were it to implement the engineering report's recommendations (in the neighborhood of 15 to 20 million dollars). Federal grants to the District may be available to assist in making this project affordable. He suggested the Commissioners write a letter that outlines the situation facing the District. The Commissioners agreed to Charlie's suggestions.

There was further discussion on pushing back on EPA's new copper rule. Ray said that a retired UNH engineering professor, Robin Collins, is looking into the District's situation in terms of finding a cheaper solution. There was also the point of identifying the normal level of copper in the Warner River water above the treatment plant to argue that the District shouldn't be held to a higher standard than that.

**Superintendent's Report**

Chuck reported on a complaint about discolored water on Friday at the medical center. Chuck said that this is a continuing issue with Well #1, the older of the District's wells, where iron material intrudes into the well when that well is being pumped. He said that we could lower the pumping rate to try and offset this condition. Another strategy would be to change the well rotation more frequently and have it happen when businesses aren't open. Another possible cause of discolored water on Main Street may be due to the fact that the water main along this section of road is 12 inches in diameter, whereas the pipe diameter supplying it is 8 inches.

Chuck recommended that the District should be looking for a new well source as a long-term solution. Discussion continued on possible locations for a new well. Dan has suggested the area behind the new fire station. Also, the land owned by the District across the Warner River. No conclusions were reached.

Chuck also alerted the Commissioners about the need to replace water meters throughout the precinct, as they have reached the end of their useful life and may not be reading flows accurately enough. At least six have stopped reading altogether. Chuck described a new type of meter that has no moving parts, making them inherently more accurate. Also he showed a meter type offered by F.W.Webb which sends meter readings directly to the District office, without the need for staff to go around the precinct to manually read them. The Commissioners discussed this proposal and suggested that a pilot project be included in next year's budget to acquire these meters for the large water users. Ray said that he anticipates having a substantial surplus available in this year's budget that can be used to pay for this expense in 2025.

### **Administrator's Report**

Ray reviewed the November financial report. Everything is normal at this point. He noted that in recent months, water usage has been trending upward.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

The next meeting will be on December 18, 2024 at 3:30 P.M.

Recorded by James F. McLaughlin, Clerk