

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Warner Village Water District Commissioners  
3:30 P.M. on  
February 12, 2025 at the Treatment Plant

Present: Dan Lavoie, Shaun Murphy, and Herm Blanchette, Commissioners; Ray Martin, Administrator; and Jim McLaughlin, Clerk.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held on January 22, 2025 were not available.

**Administrator's Report**

Ray advised that Tim Blagden has approached him regarding Tim's purchasing the two properties on the other side of the Warner River acquired by the District for the groundwater injection process. He is also interested in possibly purchasing the 7 acre parcel the District owns west of Chemical Road. The Commissioners discussed this matter and concluded that selling at this time is not in the District's interest.

The Commissioners discussed EPA's order that the District reduce the amount of copper in its treated effluent. The engineering report has the cost for the treatment plant upgrade at \$20 million. There is general agreement that this figure, even given the forgiveness of a portion of the amount, is unaffordable for the size of community served. The Commissioners asked Ray to meet with the NH Municipal Association and explain the District's position in having spent substantial funds to explore the groundwater discharge approach, initially with NHDES support, only to have them back away and require the District to continue river discharge and meet EPA's order.

The Commissioners approved the warrant for the 2025 Annual Meeting on March 18. There was discussion about the possibility of the \$20 million article's not passing the required 3/5 majority vote. One response would be for the District to challenge the position of DES opposing the groundwater discharge as unfair and an unnecessary burden on the local governmental body. Ray will explore this with the Municipal Association.

Ray reported on the planned expenditure of \$30,000 in this year's budget to begin the process of changing out water meters, starting with the large commercial customers. He said that Chuck has spoken to most of them and received their agreement to pay half of the meter cost and to pay for their installation. The Commissioners agreed that a few meters in the residential category should be purchased as a back-up to replace faulty meters.

**Phone Conversation with Justin Skelly of DPC Engineering**

Justin Skelly joined the meeting by phone. Justin reviewed the time line for his firm's involvement in preparing preliminary treatment plant upgrades to meet EPA's copper reduction order. He said the beginning of March was the deadline for completion of their preliminary engineering report which has been completed. The next deadline is the end of this year for final design plans to be completed, with going to bids following. The expectation is for a contract to build will be realized six months later. Justin that EPA will forgive 25 percent of the final cost.

Justin said he would be glad to make a public presentation to the voters if the Commissioners deemed it helpful. Ray asked if there was any possibility for EPA to upgrade the Warner plant from its Grade 2 status. Justin said he didn't think that was in the cards. Justin explained the new copper rule and Warner's numbers.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

The next meeting will be on February 26, 2025 at 3:30 P.M.  
Recorded by James F. McLaughlin, Clerk