

## **Prudence Island Water District**

### **Minutes of meeting: April 11, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Present were David Buffum, moderator; Patricia Richard, clerk; Phillip Brooks and Robert Hanson. Absent was Richard Brooks.

Approval of minutes of meeting for March 28, 2009: Motion to approve minutes of the meeting by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Hanson, approved unanimously.

**Purchasing/treasury** Received RIDOH bill for January in the amount of \$125. This does not include well testing for VOCs and metals at wells, which took place in March.

Paid federal and state payroll taxes for first quarter.

Paid 2nd half Workers Comp bill \$635, now paid in full.

Paid 1st qtr backhoe bill \$945

Paid electricians bill for re-wiring of Dewitt well, \$440

Paid Arnold Lumber \$2.38

Paid Seekonk Supply \$33.46

Expenses for March totaled \$6731.79

**Customer accounts:** Mr. Buffum has not yet sent out third notice for December billing. To meet with Ms. Richard regarding discrepancies in accounts.

Ms. Richard sent out letters to all person on current waiting list and has received several replies. Persons on waiting list have until April 30 to respond.

Sent out estimate for repair work at 01212 Narragansett Ave.

Found listing agent for 015 Homestead and composed letter requesting that asset manager pay water bill to be sent certified mail. Mr. Capron advised the board that water service to the property had been shut down for over a year because of a leak on the property.

Letter to property owner at 0 Third Street regarding non-payment to be sent certified mail. Mr. Capron, system manager advised the board that he had been unable to find a service connection for the property. Ms. Richard said it appears to be a "water on demand" account; account holder will lose that right if bill remains unpaid.

Letter to complainant of March 18 regarding sample testing results and steps being taken to address water quality issues in the area.

Allan Barse representing property owner at 01020 Narragansett Ave., with proposed site plan for service connection. Mr. Capron advised the board that he had been mistaken about location of leachfield on the site, and that he had no objection to the proposed plan. Proposed plan calls for laying of pipe within 25 feet of septic system, and state guidelines call for pipe to be sleeved. Ms. Richard asked if the proposed plan had been approved by DEM; Mr. Barse said that he had been advised by the engineer to seek approval from the district first. Mr. Buffum said that Mr. Capron should inspect the job to make certain it met state guidelines before the pipe is buried. Motion by Mr. Buffum to draft a letter approving the proposed site plan, seconded by Mr. Brooks, approved unanimously.

**Bylaws:** Mr. Buffum presented the board with edited bylaws regarding payment for service. Questions regarding a return check late payment penalty. Mr. Hanson said that since both items were already part of the fee structure, it was not necessary to have a separate fee for late payments on returned checks. Ms. Richard asked that an annual meeting be set to consider rates and fees on a predictable schedule. Mr. Buffum suggested that the first scheduled board meeting in August would be appropriate for setting of rates and fees. Mr. Buffum said that he would edit the proposed bylaws and send a copy to Ms. Richard for web site posting and public notices.

**Other:** Mr. Buffum spoke to PUC about jurisdiction over district operations, it appears that after the sale PUC no longer has any jurisdiction over community water system on Prudence. PUC description says they have jurisdiction over districts only for operations outside their boundaries. Letter from PUC with legal opinion to be sent to district.

Results from RIDOH testing of wells for VOCs, SOCs, metals, all results met criteria for public drinking water supply. Ms. Richard said that she is interested in the sodium numbers because when the board takes up the moratorium issue those numbers must be monitored carefully for signs of stress. Asked Mr. Capron to get sodium numbers for Indian Springs wells #1 and #4 since putting them into service to determine if sodium is rising. Mr. Brooks said that 3 years of well monitoring and streamflow data had now been gathered and will help serve as a baseline.

**Systems manager's report:** Gathered data for grant application; remediation of Governor Paine Rd / Allen Lane and submitted to Ms. Richard for submission. Ms. Richard reported having completed and submitted the grant application to Sen. Whitehouse's office.

Mr. Capron explained how the distribution system works with particular attention to issue of water pressure in response to questions from Mr. Buffum. Mr. Brooks informed the board about state standards for water pressure.

Bacteria samples taken for Bristol Colony well.

Repairs to Greer tank made and tank filled with water; appears to be holding. Mr. Hanson advised that inspection of inside of tank be carried out. Discussion of appropriate usage of tank if it appears to be fit for operations.

Valves located at Deer Lane and at junction of Homestead Ave and Alice Ave. Mr. Capron believes that he has now located all the valves in the system.

Portsmouth Dept. of Public Works to install catch basin at Harriet Ave. and Narragansett Ave, close to water line; requested water be shut off on Harriet during installation.

Lightning strike at or near Big Blue took out radio telemetry. Ms. Richard to check with RI Interlocal Risk Mgt. regarding insurance coverage. Second lightning strike in less than a year. Discussion of methods to prevent electronics damage from lightning strikes. Technician to be contacted for troubleshooting and repair. Mr. Capron pointed out that the unit also meters #4 well, suggested that standard meter be installed to have reliable metering of system.

Mr. Brooks said that well and stream flow monitoring had been carried out and water table looks good.

**New Business:**

**Correspondence:** Filed paperwork to reserve PIA for upcoming election.

**Other:** no other business

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Buffum, seconded by Ms. Richard, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned 2:40 p.m.

Patricia Richard, Clerk