

Prudence Island Water District

Minutes of meeting: May 23, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Present were David Buffum, moderator; Patricia Richard, clerk; Phillip Brooks, Richard Brooks and Robert Hanson.

Approval of minutes of meeting for May 9, 2009: Motion to approve minutes of the meeting by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Hanson, approved unanimously.

Purchasing/treasury: Ms. Richard reported approximately \$9100 in operating funds available until next billing, less opening balance equity and savings for RICWFA loan payment

Ordered and received perforated paper for invoicing. Invoices have been created but not yet printed. Ordered envelopes and return address labels.

Customer accounts: Almost no movement in the past 2 weeks on past-due invoices. Ms. Richard said that 10 accounts are open, but there are still ambiguities in a few of those. One account had paid district bill but not arrearage. One account being sent to a mainland address when the account holder is mostly on the island. Ms. Richard suggested that June 1 might be an appropriate time to begin shutoffs. Mr. Buffum asked what the procedure would be if there was no company shutoff associated with a past due account. Phillip Brooks said that a curb stop should be installed. William Capron, facilities manager, estimated that installation of each curb stop would take a day. Ms. Richard said that she would give Mr. Capron a list of past due accounts so that he can establish whether district curb stops exist on these properties. Richard Brooks pointed out that in older connections, it's possible that more than one structure exists on a single customer line.

Ms. Richard said that in the process of updating the customer database and putting addresses to map/lot numbers, it had come to her attention that many more "on demand" accounts might exist than the district had been aware of. She pointed out that this number could have a significant impact on demand forecasting in order to bring on new connections from the waiting list. Richard Brooks said that on demand accounts were a common practice in the days preceding the implementation of the moratorium, because people were afraid that they would not be able to build on their property without having "water rights." Ms. Richard said that further investigation of this issue was necessary to establish the true number of connections being serviced.

Bylaws: Conservation bylaws - Ms. Richard presented the board with salinity figures of Indian Springs #1, #4 and Army Camp wells for past 10 years. Discussion of significant outlier on IS #1; appears to be a clerical error, need to check with DOH. IS #1 appears to be under the most stress. Need to get rainfall figures to establish correlation between groundwater recharge and salinity numbers. Phillip Brooks said that Robin Weber of NBNERR would have those figures available for the next meeting. Ms. Richard also provided some general information about establishing drought stages from Water Resources Board web site. Mr. Capron presented the board with rainfall and well depth figures dating back to 2005 that he had gleaned from system logs. He expressed concern over the drawdown in the Indian Springs wells during times of heavy demand and dry conditions. Figures to be transcribed to spreadsheet for further study. Richard Brooks said that a policy regarding drought stages should be made before July 4.

Other: Elections. Cathy Homan has volunteered to assist Sharon Homan on election day.

Technical

Systems manager's report: Did groundskeeping for district properties.

Met with customer regarding connection installation.

Priced 4" pvc gate valve, approx. \$506.54 to put valve on Narragansett and Warner, hasn't ordered it yet; big job, should install a T, hydrant needs to be replaced because it can't accommodate flow for flushing.

Quotes for portable generator. Richard Brooks offered loan of his unit on a temporary basis.

Cleaning of Greer tank continues. Phillip Brooks advised that a respirator should be worn when working inside a water tank. Ms. Richard advised that any residual from tank was a waste stream that would need to be tested for pH and metals, then determine proper disposal through RI Waste Mgt.

Discussion of cross connection control regulations. Compliance due by the end of June for small water systems, but DOH has not yet awarded contract for template outlining the program. Phillip Brooks said that because there is no industry on the island, the district will not need to take any drastic actions to be in compliance. Properly installed backflow preventers on new connections, vacuum breakers on outdoor connections, and evaluation/correction of the few properties that have a greater potential for cross-contamination than the average residence should be sufficient to comply.

RIDOH sanitary survey to be scheduled for some time in June.

Failed monthly coliform test for distribution system; retesting is at lab now. Mr. Capron said that he believes that the apparatus being used is the source of the problem, wants to change to his residential tap. Mr. Brooks advised doing test sample at the residence before doing paperwork to move designated testing site.

Also took sample for Prudence Park water system, need to send invoice.

New Business:

Correspondence: Received membership application from RI Interlocal Risk Mgt Trust. Filled out and mailed back.

Received radiological results from CT DOH for Indian Springs 1, 4 and Army Camp. Received flouride results for Bristol Colony. Given to Mr. Capron for inclusion in his files.

Other: Ms. Richard informed the board that Portsmouth has no record of transfer of ownership of big blue. Sandy Mack is looking into it.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Buffum, seconded by Mr. Brooks, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned 3:00 p.m.

Patricia Richard, Clerk