

Prudence Island Water District

Minutes of meeting: June 6, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Present were David Buffum, moderator; Patricia Richard, clerk; and Richard Brooks. Phillip Brooks arrived at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of minutes of meeting for May 23, 2009: Motion to approve minutes of the meeting by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Mr. Buffum, approved unanimously.

Purchasing/treasury: Ms. Richard presented the board with the expense report for May totaling \$9130.51, still running approximately \$7,000 in the black for the 8-month period. Mr. Buffum asked if the lab fees were current. Ms. Richard said that the billing entity for RIDOH is approximately 2 months behind because of RIDOH outsourcing the task.

Customer accounts: Bills went out on schedule June 1. Very few open invoices, sent letters informing customers in arrears that they are scheduled for shutoff and that if they are unable to pay, contact Clerk to make payment arrangements. One customer called and asked to give up their on-demand connection. Ms. Richard explained the implications of giving it up, and asked customer to send in a letter declining the on-demand connection for district records. Richard Brooks asked if this meant a customer from the waiting list could be brought on to make up the lost revenue. Ms. Richard said that she wanted to get a firm number of actual connections and on-demand connections before the board makes a decision on that. William Capron, facilities manager, said that at the board meeting held March 28, 2009, he had spoken in favor of lifting the moratorium, but that he had not known that so many on-demand customers existed. Ms. Richard said that once they had hard data in terms of actual connections, it should be possible to forecast demand and will have a better idea of how many, if any waiting list customers can be brought on. Ms. Richard said that she had some inquiries from waiting list people and had explained what the situation is in terms of on-demand accounts.

People's Credit Union CD: Mr. Hanson has renewed the CD for 90 days at 1.1% interest, comes mature at the time RICWFA loan is due. CD will be mailed to district office. Ms. Richard suggested that the district consider laddering CDs from operating funds that come mature toward the end of each billing cycle to generate a little income.

Bylaws: Conservation bylaws - Robin Weber, NBNERR, showed the board a poster asking for monitoring volunteers for well and stream flow measurements that she wants to display at the district election. She also presented the board with graphed stream flow and precipitation data from monitoring for the past 3 years. Data set is limited, one year was drought year, need 10 years to determine what is "normal". Ms. Richard said that she had transcribed data given to her by Mr. Capron for precipitation and well levels, but the well data is inconsistent because sometimes the active wells in the area are being pumped and sometimes they are static. She said that it would be helpful to have the pumping records for the dates monitoring was being done, and also the day of the week that the monitoring is being done.

Ms Weber presented the board with documentation of how other water systems evaluated resources. She recommended that the Pier Road well be used as the primary indicator well. She said that there are two areas of concern: residential demand and maintaining wetland function. She said that every year in which measurements have been taken, stream flow ceases, indicating that too much water is being consumed. She suggested that stream flow be taken into account when determining conservation stages. Discussion of best way to determine when drought conditions are imminent and triggers for declaration of conservation stages.

Elections: Everything is on track for election to be held June 20. Newspaper advertisement given to Mr. Buffum for 2 insertions in Sakonnet Times.

Portsmouth Taxes: Sandra Mack is looking into why the storage tank transfer has not been noted on Portsmouth database; sent bill of sale and assignment and assumption agreement to tax office.

Technical

Systems manager's report: Pumpage is down for month of May, improved numbers probably the result of fixing leaks.

Attention to obsolete feeder line in Hereshoff Lane area. Bill Silvia doing excavation in the area for septic systems.

Attention to feeder line from Pier Rd to Brown Lane

Groundskeeping done by Steve Butler.

Electrical problem at Army Camp well; John and Shannon Cubellis fixed problem with switch box and control box.

RIDOH orders increased monitoring of radionuclides at Indian Springs well #1, still within requirements but trending upward, now must be tested every 3 years instead of every 6 years.

Greer Tank cleaning complete and hatch covers reinstalled.

Big blue storage tank inspected, some rust lines, couldn't see bottom. Information regarding robotic cleaning, tank can remain in service during process.

Nate Bacon allowed district to borrow medium-sized adjustable wrench for service of Greer Tank.

Steve Butler donated air filter for lawn mower.

Drain basins and perforated pipe in the way at world headquarters. Ms. Richard to contact Bill Silvia to see if he has any use for them.

Mr. Capron requests permission to buy a digital camera for documenting work in the field

RIDOH performed sanitary survey; results within a month. Suggestions for sampling tap on Pier Rd., housing, etc. Does not seem practical to build elaborate housing for roadside tap. Continue with plans to change location of sampling tap to residence. RIDOH, also suggested painting Greer Tank; Mr. Capron feels that it is not necessary at this time.

New Business:

Correspondence: None

Other: No other business

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Buffum, seconded by Mr. Brooks, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned 3:25 p.m.

Patricia Richard, Clerk