

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Warner Village Water District Commissioners
3:30 P.M. on
January 22, 2025 at the Treatment Plant

Present: Dan Lavoie, Shaun Murphy, and Herm Blanchette, Commissioners; Ray Martin, Administrator; and Jim McLaughlin, Clerk. Also Mike Smith, Warner Selectman.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held on January 8, 2025 were approved as submitted.

Administrator's Report

Ray distributed a revised financial report for the month of December which reflects the correct posting of the last pay period in 2024 to that year. This only affects the salaries of Ray and the District's two employees. The adjustment increases the total budget spent for 2024 from \$503,243.65 to \$505,399.50. This amount is still under the authorized spending cap for 2024 of \$506,879.00.

2025 Budget

Ray reviewed the proposed 2025 annual budget. He pointed out that some of the increases in Service/Outside Contractors lines in both Water and Sewer expenses will be used to begin the process of changing the old meters to a new digital system. Ray observed that the difference in the amount of water pumped from the wells is about 300,000 gallons more than the amount billed. Higher accuracy of the digital meters should help narrow that gap and contribute financially to the District's income picture.

The Commissioners agreed that the initial phase of these conversions would involve the large commercial users and apartment customers. Ray said he would ask the large commercial users to contribute some portion of the cost. Mike Smith contributed his experience with these meters in California in which the batteries for the meters used there had a very high rate of failure and replacement posed a serious financial burden on the water district. Ray pointed out that the meters in use here are in the basements of buildings and thus not subject to freezing temperatures. The company selling these units assured that battery life was not a problem. Ray said he would contact communities that have employed them in this area about their experience.

The 2025 budget has a 6.1 percent increase, but when surplus funds are added the increase is only 0.62 percent.

Proposed 2025 District Annual Meeting Warrant

Ray discussed the proposed warrant articles for 2025. The article 1 deals with the authorization to raise and appropriate \$20,000,000 for the cost of engineering design and construction of a treatment plant up-grade to meet the new EPA copper limits. The Commissioners discussed this article and concluded that a letter should be sent to the District users that alerts them to this project ahead of the March Meeting. Ray can send a letter out with the February bills.

Ray mentioned that Joe Damour had suggested another option to retrofitting the current plant; one that is a completely new type of treatment process and one requiring the same staffing level as we currently have. He thought the cost would be about the same as is being considered here.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

The next meeting will be on February 12, 2025 at 3:30 P.M.

Recorded by James F. McLaughlin, Clerk