

Grand Isle Consolidated Water District

Minutes of Regular Meeting October 12, 2020, 6:30pm

Board Members Present: Janine Banks, Michael Inners, Tim Olver, Court Perry, Ken Mirvis, , Judi Reposa.

Board Members Not Present: Lynda Morgan-Gardiner

SOS Members Present: Operators Joe Danis and Warren Steadman

Members present: Patti Billard

Janine Banks Called the meeting to order at 6:32

Additions to the Agenda:

- Addition to the November Agenda's New Business – Fire Dept. wants to use the fire hydrant at Lover's Lane and Faywood.

Review of Meeting Minutes

- **September Meeting Minutes**
 - Judi voted to approve, Michael seconded. All were in favor.

Questions from Members:

- Patti Billard – Ketch Road
 - Patti explained her situation regarding the leak she encountered which has impacted her bill amount and has asked for a forgiveness on the bill due to the incident. Patti had reviewed past minutes and the GICWD ordinance and claims there is no policy set for this circumstance.
 - Ken let us know that he intended to abstain from any decision that may be made since he is her neighbor.
 - Janine explained that any issues that occur on someone's property, past the curb stop, is the responsibility of the property owner.
 - The SOS Operators explained their general protocol with reviewing higher than normal usage. Warren went on to detail the specific incident from the SOS perspective.
 - Michael outlined the bill dispute policy, which is bringing the matter up to the GICWD board during the monthly meeting.
 - Tim said that if the board was to make a decision to forgive Patti's bill, then it could create a precedent for other members to dispute bill forgiveness. A policy should be in place for future implications. Michael seconded this notion.

- Janine informed Patti that the board will internally review this situation and follow up with her.
- Warren detailed the spectrum of occurrences which could fall into this precedent.
- Court asked if there was a way we could work with members on different types of payment plans, rather than outright forgiveness. Warren detailed these options from SOS Billing. Ken concurred, suggesting that customer's with unexpected leaks are responsible for the water use, but without interest or penalty, and that the repayment terms be flexible depending on the customer's ability to pay.
- Michael informed the board that another member who had previously disputed a bill, due to a leak, has since payed the bill due.
- Janine to write up a policy regarding Court and Ken's suggestion to protect members debt rates while not forgiving bills resulting from these scenarios.
- Janine to follow up with Patti that the board has decided to stand by its current policy of not forgiving incidents that occur beyond the curb stop unless the meter has malfunctioned.

Operator's Report:

- The Bell Hill tank project is completed. Joe detailed the process of the project to drain, clean, test, and replace anodes in the tank. 6 anodes were replaced. The anodes prevent corrosion within the tank. While the tank was being refilled SOS had to operate the plant manually as to control the flow coming from the Lover's Lane tank. Tomorrow morning 10/14, the Tank should be filled up enough so that the plant can be automated again. There were no anticipated nor reported disruptions of service during this process.
- Warren brought up the subject of large usage account. There are eight account that have been observed to have higher usage than normal (over 50k).
 - Warren suggested that we send a letter to inform these accounts that they've used higher amounts. High users can incur increase debt multipliers. Warren also suggested that the letter includes definitions of what high users are.
 - Ken suggested that we wait until Spring to observe water usage more closely. That we should also inform our members of water usage and conservation.
 - Warren explained how the GICWD is the only local water district that is metered.
 - Ken proposed a newsletter in the Spring (April 2021) bill that explains the cost implications of watering and outdoor water use.
 - Janine supported both Ken's longer-term idea and Warren's short-term plan.
- Ken asked to revisit a document shared by Warren regarding a discrepancy reading on the master meters.
 - Warren spoke to the document and topic thereof. Discussion ensued.

Engineer's Report:

- The engineers were not present at the meeting but emailed their report.
- Warren asked Court to check with the Engineer's regarding the status of the Grant Application

Treasurer's Report:

- The shutoff moratorium from the state, that applies to Water Utility, expires in one day on Oct 15 but probably will be extended.
- We have roughly \$25,000 in longer term unpaid bills from various accounts.
- Expenses are on track. There are a few things that are overbudget, such as our electric bill which is currently on target with three-month remaining in the year. There are other items that are under budget.
- Michael attended the Rate Setting Seminar and has nothing to report.
- Warren asked about the dues line item from the monthly budget, whether it should be in a different category than what it was reporting in for the monthly budget report.
- Discussion ensued on some line items of the monthly budget report.

Old Business:

- VT-Alert: test run
 - Have not been able to do this yet. Hoping to do so in two stages, first with members of the board and then a public test to members of GICWD. For the 2nd stage a Front Porch Forum post and other public notice will be made. Janine to work with the board members to schedule a test time.
- Recurring: return to in-person meetings or remain virtual?
 - Remain in virtual. Michael noted that both the Fish Hatchery and Grand Isle School are not allowing bookings for rooms.
- Update on delinquent accounts
 - This was discussed briefly in the Treasurers report. Two delinquent accounts have been notified of potential future shutoff.
 - Janine to send Tim the cancelation form that she had drafted for SOS to use with members.
- Update on Rural Water Association
 - This was discussed briefly in the Treasurers report.
- Any follow-up from Raewyn Lane Variance conversation in Sept.?
 - The property owners at Raewyn Lane are still in the middle of exploring other options and have not made a decision to move forward with GICWD's proposal. Michael suggested to remove from the Agenda's Old Business unless we hear back from Raewyn Lane.

New Business:

- GI Fire Dept. Hydrant question. - some discussion began on the topic to be added to the November Agenda. Warren outlined the question, the larger scenario surrounding it, and that more research/conversation needs to occur before the board makes any decision.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM. Michael moved to Accept, Ken seconded, all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Tim Olver _____ Date:

GICWD Clerk



SIMON OPERATION SERVICES, INC.

September 9, 2020

Ms Janine Banks

Grand Isle Consolidated Water District

Grand Isle, Vermont 05458

Dear Janine,

Enclosed please find the following reports and activities for the water treatment facility for the month of August 2020.

1. Monthly Activities Report
2. Vermont Water System Operations Report

If you have any questions regarding this information please feel free to call us toll free at 1-888-SOS-1885.

Sincerely,

Joe Danis

Warren Steadman

Cc: Facility copy

143 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676 1-802-244-7544

GRAND ISLE CONSOLIDATED WATER DISTRICT

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

AUGUST 2020

A: ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

1. Two samples were taken for coliform testing. Both samples were absent. Monthly backwash data was taken and the monthly report was sent to the Watershed Management Division. The monthly Water Operations report was sent to the Drinking Water and Ground Water Protection Division.
2. Samples were taken at ten homes for the three year Lead and Copper testing program. All samples tested below the MCL
3. The annual cycling of main line valves has been completed.
4. A coupling ruptured on Kinetico tank B. The filter was isolated and the plant was put back on line. The fitting on the valve was replaced the next day and the plant returned to normal. As this was the second coupling that has ruptured spare couplings were ordered.
5. The tap and boring under Pearl Street for new connection at 49 Bell Hill Road was witnessed. The meter installation was inspected and the water turned on.
6. Allocation letters were provided for the LCT project and for a new home to be built on Ladd Point.
7. The two phone lines to the plant were connected to Comcast.
8. The service line to Pecor's connection on Sloop road was leak tested. No leaks were witnessed on the service line.
9. The water was shut off at 11 Drawbridge Lane after a lightning strike caused a service line failure outside the home. The water was turned back on once the rupture was repaired. The same lightning strike caused problems at 1 Drawbridge Lane. It blew the touch pad off the side of the building,

destroyed the wire to the meter and left black on the meter. The touch pad and wire were replaced. The meter still worked.

10. A new meter assembly was dropped off at 11 Star Road. The original meter was damaged as it had been left under the building that was abandoned a number of years ago. The new owner will install the meter.

B. ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS

1. Annual flushing of the distribution lines is in progress.
2. Testing valves and procedure for draining the Bell Hill tank is in progress. The tank needs to be drained, cleaned and the anodes replaced. SOS personnel will be clearing the debris from the floor of the tank. Aquastore will replace the anodes and inspect both the Bell Hill tank and the Lover's Lane tank. Draining, cleaning and inspection is scheduled for the week of October 12,
3. Warranty information about the siding on the new building requested by Allura has been sent to Allura.

C: ACTIVITIES PLANNED OR NEEDED

1. It is expected that the State will schedule a Sanitary Survey sometime this year.
2. It is recommended that we reschedule the West Shore master meter replacement for next year.

D: BILLINGS AND COLLECTIONS

1. Accounts receivable as of September 4, 2020 was \$27,360.54
2. Ninety-nine second notices were mailed August 10, 2020.
3. Fifty-seven letters in lieu of disconnect notices were mailed August 21, 2020.
4. Two certified letters went out August 24, 2020 for termination of GICWD service.
5. No new liens were posted.
6. The balance of the outstanding liens is \$13,860.37.