

**GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING**

August 5, 2009

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Paul Becker, Doug Mohr, Jay Klemetsrud, Avis Lowe, Cindy Brown, Kerwin Borgen

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Les Windjue

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nels Halgren, Sally Burkle – GRWD; Bob Ford – CountryInsure USA; Dennis Mertens

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by President Becker at District office.

Minutes from the July 8, 2009 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mohr, seconded by Lowe and with all directors voting aye, **motion carried.**

**APPOINTMENT**

Bob Ford – Review Insurance Coverages – Ford, Country Insure USA was present to review insurance coverages of the District. Inland Marine (IM) coverage through NDIRF could be used to handle those items currently insured through the State Fire & Tornado fund. Ford has forwarded the schedule of those items to NDIRF for determination of premium. Advantage of IM coverage over State Fire & Tornado includes allowance for transporting covered item, less exclusions and generally broader in coverage although this may come at a higher cost. District will compare coverages and costs when premium information is available. Some changes are being made to the boiler policy to remove locations that have minimal exposure to loss. Ford also reviewed directors and officers coverage, general liability, auto, equipment and computer breakdown coverages.

**Manager Report**

- **Lakewood Sewer Reroute Review** – Flows have been checked after the reroute to determine amount of infiltration that may be coming from the north Burke Blvd area. At this time, flows are minimal and it appears the reroutes have taken the pressure off the areas along the lake. The District should be able to keep service to the north Burke Blvd area at present unless infiltration causes the line to become inundated. Line has been placed for the reroute in the Happy Acres area, but has not been hooked up to the users. There have been some problems with one of the homeowners as they are currently waiting for word on their buyout. District will hold off on the hookup at this time until the buyout determination is made.

Acorn Ridge – Area is holding its own. Some homes on the east side of Highway 20 are supposedly being offered buyouts, prior to proposed road and dike work.

The District reviewed the locations that are in the buyout process.

- **Sump Pump Door Hanger** – Rather than sending a newsletter to the sewer users, a door hanger was reviewed that will be dropped off at users' homes that do not have a sump pump discharge hose located to the outside of the home. This is being planned for fall.
- **Prairie Wood Project – Grant Info-Letter to SLN** – Following the last meeting, Halgren received word from Senator Dorgan's office that funding was approved for \$375,000 funding in 2010 for the project. The bill was been approved by the Senate on July 29, 2009 and needs House approval at this time. Project requires a 25% non-federal

match. Halgren has sent a letter to the Spirit Lake Nation, Water Resource Division informing them of the proposed water service to Prairie Wood Subdivision and to the adjacent campground. Information regarding the Section 594 Program, authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, as amended was presented to the board for review. The Section 594 program is the funding mechanism for this project. The Benson County Press printed a short article on adding users in NE Benson County to GRWD's system.

- **Theft of Service – 9 a.m.** Halgren reported on a violation for unmetered water usage. Letter was sent via certified mail informing the member of the violation, which is subject to an automatic \$1000 fine. Meter had been removed from a hydrant and a garden hose had been connected without a meter. The board discussed the policy for assessment of fines and clarified the manager has the right to assess fines and report violations to the board of directors with members having the right to appear before the board to discuss the reported violation and to plead their case.
- **#1 Well New Motor Request** – An estimate of \$1,606 from Water Smith Inc for a 15hp 460 - 3 phase motor was reviewed. Water Smith had recently completed work on the Tolna pump and indicated the motors on the wells have a life expectancy of about 15 years. The pumps have never been pulled and serviced. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Borgen to move forward with work to pull the pump at well #1. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. There was some discussion on including Holbeck Water-well Service for consideration for future work at the wells.
- **Construction Policy Update** – GRWD's cost participation in high cost hookups was reviewed and Halgren asked if there should be a time commitment, similar to the commitment requirement of 5 years on the expansion project. At present, one hookup installed in 2008 (GRWD cost share was approximately \$1500) is no longer using the water and had inquired on terminating the membership. This member has decided to continue the membership as backup for the well on the property currently in use for cattle. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Borgen to set a 5 year commitment requirement for those services that received a construction cost share from the District. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Haybale Bay Service Request** – Dennis Mertens met with the board to discuss his plans to develop an area east of Devils Lake. Initial plans are to develop 13 lots (7 lakeside) with potential to develop further. Elevation of the proposed development area is 1460-70. This development would require connection to the main transmission line across US Highway 2. It is possible that the connection to the transmission line could be incorporated into the bore with the Prairie Wood line with Merten's line to run into the subdivision from the east. This option would allow for some line looping. Mertens indicated he would be putting the road in this fall and is unsure whether he would need water this year or next. Line for Prairie Wood project would be installed next year. Mertens was given the choice of either option and will continue to work with GRWD on development of this subdivision area.
- **WARN (Water Agency Response Network) Agreement** – This network is currently being developed with members working to help each other out in emergencies. ND Rural Water is applying for grant funding to put together a mobile unit (generators, etc) that can be quickly mobilized during emergencies. Motion by Borgen, seconded by Klemetsrud to join the network and sign the agreement. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Water Pac 2009** – Board members contributed individually for the national rural water political action committee (PAC).
- **Tower Painting Update** – Crew will be on site Monday, August 10, 2009. Motion by Borgen, seconded by Klemetsrud to paint the tower delf blue (39 BL). **Motion carried**.

- **Carrington Water User** – The recent billing for an elderly Carrington woman was reviewed. She had experienced some plumbing problems and inadvertently opened a valve that allowed metered water down the well. Gallons through the water meter were 142,000 with her normal usage averaging less than 1000 gallons. Motion by Borgen seconded by Brown to bill out the gallons at GRWD purchase cost of \$1.58/1000 gallons. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

**Office Manager Report**

- **Accounts Payable** – Motion by Lowe, seconded by Brown to authorize payment of the accounts payable as listed. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>248,200.10</b>	<b>16,475.58</b>

- **Financial Report** – Financial information of the District for July was reviewed. Motion by Klemetsrud, seconded by Mohr to approve the financial report. **Motion carried**.
- **Tri-County meter** – Electronic meter was replaced and worked for 2 days before it went bad again. District is working with Tri-County to determine as accurately as possible the gallons going through the meter. There was considerable water loss in the Ramsey North area and Tri-County has been requested to provide GRWD with the gallons billed to their users being served with Ramsey water. GRWD will also be checking other areas to find where the loss is coming from.
- **Pledge of Assets Report** – Deposits and pledging through June 30, 2009 was reviewed. Motion by Borgen, seconded by Klemetsrud to approve the pledge report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **State Reimbursement Rates – 2009 Legislature** – Motion by Borgen, seconded by Brown to set mileage rate at \$.55/mile to be reviewed annually. **Motion carried**.

**Membership Transfer**

- Paul and Lois Jean Lange – from Country Club Estates, Lot 14 to Country Club South Estates 2<sup>nd</sup> Subdivision, Lot 1 – Motion to approve the Lange membership transfer request was made by Brown, seconded by Klemetsrud. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

**Other Business**

- **Retreat Review** – Directors indicated the retreat was very informative.

Next meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2009 at 8 a.m. at the District office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Paul Becker, President \_\_\_\_\_

Sally Burkle, Office Manager \_\_\_\_\_