

**GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING**

October 8, 2009

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Nels Halgren, Sally Burkle – GRWD; John Dahlen

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

Minutes from the September 10, 2009 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lowe, seconded by Windjue and with all directors voting aye, **motion carried.**

Manager Report

- **Prairiewood Sub** – Halgren reported federal funding for rural water service to the northeast area of Benson County looks promising. Letters were sent to Prairiewood Association and to East Bay Campground providing funding information and to begin a membership drive so the project can be developed over the winter months with construction to begin in 2010. A deadline date of December 1, 2009 was set for the membership drive, from which the project will be developed. Halgren informed the board he had some discussions on the infrastructure currently in place at Prairiewood and informed the association the infrastructure does not meet GRWD's specifications. The District could use the existing curb stops and tie into them for those property owners that sign up for service. This would save some installation costs for the new user when the rural water connection is made. For those owners choosing not to sign up under the membership drive, costs to connect their curb stop to GRWD's main line will be at their cost. An October 18 2009 meeting has been set by the association for their members to discuss a rural water option. Halgren was also directed to contact Barry Cox to determine if he is interested in membership under this project.
- **Poplar Grove Road Raise Request – John Dahlen – 8:30 a.m.** – Dahlen met with the board to request assistance with a project that raised a road near the Cove area. Total project cost was \$33,180 with FEMA assistance of \$6,315. Dahlen explained the road raise protected water and sewer services for those users located along the stretch of road that was worked on, with said raise bringing the elevation to 1455.5 feet. The project cost was for work completed to date and it was noted additional costs will be incurred as extra rock needs to be placed. Dahlen was asked if other utility companies had been contacted for cost share request and Dahlen answered that they have not been contacted. Motion by Klemetsrud, seconded by Mohr to table action until the site can be viewed by the directors and to research for any prior precedence. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**
- **Stutsman Rural Water – Rate Reduction Request** – Halgren had been contacted by the manager of Stutsman Rural Water to discuss water service to the dairy. GRWD currently uses 25-30,000 gpd in the Carrington area and have purchased the ability to use up to 50,000 gpd. SRW is requesting a minimum of 5 million gallons of water per year at a reduced rate. SRW currently purchases water at the full rate of \$3.25/1000 gallons and sells it for \$3.50/1000 gallons. Halgren had Bartlett & West review GRWD's ability to provide 20 gpm to the dairy barn east of Carrington. This could drop pressure at the end of the line to 20 psi. Another option Halgren is having B&W look at is to tie the west end of the Ramsey system into the east end of the Carrington system to see pressures in that area would be improved. The water supply contract with the City of Carrington was

reviewed. There was general discussion on improvements that may be needed or additional units that may need to be purchased from Carrington in order for SRW to serve the dairy barn in a larger capacity that they currently have been. Halgren will keep working with Bartlett & West to develop viable options. SRW may need to incur some costs if improvements are required to serve the dairy barn.

- **Micro-Comm Maintenance Agreement** – Halgren reported to the board the Micro-Comm telemetry system is no longer under warranty and presented a service contract proposal for consideration. Terms and conditions of the service contract were reviewed. Motion was made by Borgen, seconded by Mohr to accept the extended service warranty proposal from Micro-Comm. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Attorneys Opinion Review** – The board reviewed Attorney Hager’s opinion of 1926b law regarding the District’s protection in areas of the District that have been annexed. The District will continue to work with the City of Devils Lake to develop an agreement that addresses this matter. Hager also provided information on the right of the District to terminate sewer service. The District will need to revise its rules and pass a resolution with full notice provided to all customers. The District will work on a policy to provide for sewer service to be terminated in the event that collection efforts have been exhausted.
- **Knuckles Booster** – Cost estimate for booster station to serve this low pressure area is \$25,000 and Halgren estimated cost could be lower if the District does the work themselves. Item will be included in the budget for 2010.
- **Sewer Flow Review** – A graph of the sewer system flows for the past three years was reviewed. The graph shows increased flows during large precipitation events and with the high water table this year, Halgren stated the septic tanks themselves could be leaking which could also account for increased flows. Halgren also reported on difficulty in making the connection to the lift station on one of the reroute areas due to sand and water at 8½-9 foot depth. This work will require a large backhoe and will be more expensive than originally thought.
- **Budget Items Discussion** – A listing of items for the 2010 budget were reviewed and discussed. Preliminary budget for 2010 will be presented at the November meeting.
- **Monthly Bill Reduction Request** – A request for reduction of the currently monthly water bill of an elderly user near the McHenry area was reviewed. GRWD was contacted by the user who reported the water usage was too high for normal usage. GRWD staff assisted in finding a leak at the residence. Motion by Borgen, seconded by Lowe to waive some of the usage fees and reduce the current billing to \$65.00. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Septic Tank Replacement** – Halgren reported the District has replaced septic tanks in the past under total failure conditions. Currently, one sewer user has requested to either move the tank or obtain a variance due to a building addition. The user has complained of sewer smell in his house and upon District investigation, the tank was viewed via camera. The tank was shown to be in poor shape with rebar visible and Halgren reported it was a matter of time before the tank fails. Halgren requested the District to work with the home owner and offer to purchase a new tank with the homeowner to install at a location that would be located outside the variance area. The directors instructed Halgren to handle as he sees fit.
- **Water Termination Policy Review** – With the current year’s flooding, more homes will be moving and Halgren wondered if the District should develop some type of policy to shut off the water service at the main line to eliminate the potential for the curb stop to end up under water and become vulnerable to frost action. Since the District owns the

line from the curb stop to the main, this would be GRWD's responsibility. Halgren will handle on case by case basis as the circumstances dictate.

Office Manager Report

- **Accounts Payable** – Motion by Windjue, 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>
TOTALS	44,722.78	18,094.80

- **Financial Report** – Financial information of the District was reviewed. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Lowe to approve the financial report. **Motion carried.**

Membership Termination

- Julie Schafer-DeVier – Acorn Ridge, Lot 2 – Motion by Mohr, seconded by Lowe to terminate the membership of DeVier. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Other Business

- **LIDAR** – Halgren and Becker attended a meeting to discuss LIDAR, a new mapping program being developed that will provide 1 foot elevations within the Red River Basin.
- **Tower Update** – Work is nearly complete. Interior work is completed and is curing at present. Curing time and schedule will depend on temperatures. There is a small section on the base of the tower that has not been painted yet as the painters ran out of paint and more had to be shipped. Completion of paint work will also depend on weather conditions.
- **Key Event** – An item of approximately \$100 will be provided for the event.

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

Minutes Approved: November 5, 2009

Paul Becker, President (Signed)

Sally Burkle, Office Manager (Signed)