

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

May 8, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Paul Becker, Kale Miller, Allen Johnson, Doug Mohr, Gilbert Black, David Hovendick, Missy Abrahamson

OTHERS PRESENT: Lonnie Lacina, Sally Herda, Krista Wold - GRWD; Brian Aafedt – AE₂S

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 a.m. by President Johnson at the District office.

Minutes from the April 3, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Black, seconded by Hovendick to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager report

- **Water tower cleaning** – Lacina obtained two bids for tower cleaning at the north tower and Pare tower. Bids were nearly identical – Maguire Iron at \$18,250 and Dynamics bid \$18,250. Cleaning includes the outside of the north tower. Lacina reviewed the cleaning process performed by the two companies, prefers the work done by Dynamics and recommended work be awarded to them. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Abrahamson to award the tower cleaning for the north tower and Pare tower to Dynamics. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Pickup quote** – Quotes for the pickups were reviewed, along with trade values. The directors indicated that the trucks be traded versus selling separately. Ford no longer offers fleet promotions. Motion by Becker, seconded by Black to approve the purchase of the trucks as quoted (\$39,444 and \$30,944 with trade). All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Saunders bulk water agreement** – The directors reviewed the proposed water agreement to be used for the purchase of bulk water from the Saunders booster location for the purpose of spraying. Suggestions were made to streamline the process. The regular rate for water (\$5.50/1,000 gal) will be charged and for nonmembers an upfront payment of \$500 for use of the facility. Lacina stated he has been in contact with a number of users interested in using this location for filling spray tanks.
- **Sewer repair - Starkweather** – A Starkweather resident began experiencing sewer issues that upon investigation was shown to be a result of the original water line construction in 1992. Mid-Land Excavating repaired the sewer and connected back into the main. Cost of the repair work was \$2,870.32. The homeowner turned in 2 bills for costs incurred for jetting out their pipe and for plumber in the amount of \$1,599. Neither the plumber nor the jetter determined what the issue was and Lacina requested direction on how to handle these expenses. The board indicated GRWD will pay those costs.
- **Water loss** – Lacina reported that a 12” line under the lake was pressure tested and lost 12 PSI in 3 hours. This line will be tested again using a make-up tank to pump in gallons to get a more accurate measure of line loss. Another area that will be tested is in the Woodland Shores area. A new leak was found in an area affected by greater line pressure with the start-up of the Saunders Booster and likely caused by the pressure change. Staff will keep looking for leaks.
- **Ramsey County Event Center membership** – General discussion was held on service to the event center on this property. There is currently a water membership in use and being metered, and the event center is requesting a 1½” meter. The plumbers are requesting the water meter at this time, but no service has been brought to the building. Lacina has provided options for service including a central metering location that would

serve the entire property or if a separate service is being requested. On the sewer side, septic tanks are currently being installed. The Fair Board is currently taking care of the existing lift station – sewer options were also provided by Lacina to the Fair Board. Water base rate would be set to a similar rate as those with the larger meter.

- **North system capacity improvement project**

- **AE2S project update**

Facility – The Saunders Booster station startup is complete and placed into service. Some testing and working on other issues is being done. There is a leak in one of the cells that is in the process of being corrected. Miscellaneous items and cleanup work remain. The WTP punch list and site cleanup work remains to be completed and is past the completion date. Aafedt stated he would like to see some progress on this.

American General (AG) payment request #11 was submitted for approval. AG has asked retainage be released for WTP work. The request reflects \$50,000 retainage for WTP, Saunders retainage is still being held. Balance of contract is \$280K to completion. Change Order 3 in the amount of \$15,441.40 was presented for approval and includes a butterfly valve to isolate between the North and Pare towers as well as some miscellaneous items. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Miller to approve Change Order 3 to American General in the amount of \$15,441.40. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Other project costs were reviewed and issues with SCADA conversion at the remote sites were brought to the attention of the directors. The meters at Glenfield, South Booster, Carrington, Kensal and the Webster booster are the original meters and using older technology. Replacing the meters with newer ultrasonic technology will provide better and instantaneous data matching what is in place at the WTP and is easier to operate. Cost is estimated at \$30-32,000 for the meters and is grant eligible. Motion by Becker, seconded by Miller to approve the meter changeouts at these locations. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Aafedt will inform John Lonski to order the meters and additional parts needed due to different lay length. Estimated completion time is mid-July. John's Refrigeration is close to completion with the original contract.

May invoices – Motion by Black, seconded by Hovendick to approve project invoices: AE2S (\$23,617.76) and American General (\$271,391.63) for a total of \$295,009.39. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Project budget was reviewed.

- **User expansion project**

- **AE2S project update** – Construction is ramping up this month with some boring work in the Starkweather area being completed at this time. Karas is finishing work in another area and may be available near the end of May to begin construction. AE2S is currently working on railroad permits.

Change order #2 in the amount of \$207,751.25 was presented for approval and includes the waitlisted new users and subdivision. Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Abrahamson to approve Change Order #2 to Karas Construction in the amount of \$207,751.25. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Project budget was reviewed and Aafedt encouraged a conservative mindset for use of contingency monies going forward. Action on additional waitlisted users can be

addressed at the end of the project. The number of new users being added under the project is 132 plus the services in the subdivision.

Office manager report

- **Accounts Payable** – Motion by Mohr, seconded by Abrahamson to authorize payment of the April bills. **All directors voted aye and motion carried.**

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	1,057,741.86	339,598.14

- **Financial report** – April financial report was reviewed. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Miller to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.** Project reports for the current improvement projects were reviewed.
- **CD due 5-15-25** - Motion by Mohr, seconded by Miller to authorize Johnson and Herda to renew CD for 6-mo or 1-year term following rate quotes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Next regular board meeting will be held June 5, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 9:15 am.

Minutes Approved: _____ June 5, 2025

Allen Johnson, President _____ (Signed by Missy Abrahamson, VP)

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (Signed)