

Buyse Water Association Annual Membership Meeting

October 4th, 2020 at 3:00

Dear Neighbor

Your homeowner owned water association will be holding its' rescheduled annual meeting on the date and time listed above. Annual meetings are important every year but this year the bar is a little higher because the membership needs to provide the board input that will determine the future direction of the water service. Please take the time to read what is in this letter and I hope you will attend the meeting or provide your proxy to another neighbor or to the board directly.

LOCATION OF THE MEETING

The BWA Annual Membership Meeting will take place on Sunday, October 4th (rain date, October 11th, 2020) on the BWA pump house grounds. The pump house address is 19295 Buyse Road. Seating will be very limited so bring your own chair if you want to insure you will have a seat, wear a mask and remember there is no bathroom at the location.

AGENDA

- State of Condition of Buyse Water Association
- Financial Review
- BWA Board Members
- Bylaw Changes
- Update on Tower

MEETING INFORMATION

The September billing included the 1.) Annual Membership Meeting Announcement, 2.) the PROXY on the backside of the second sheet and 3.) the Proposed Bylaws changes.

Information related to the Annual Membership Meeting can also be found on the BWA Website, www.bwail.myruralwater.com . Click on "News & Notices" then on "2020 Annual Membership Meeting Announcement" or "2020 Annual Membership Meeting Handouts".

If you have not signed up for Alerts or News, sent from our website, please consider doing that at the meeting. This is the required information needed to signup:

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Cell Phone #. For text messages and in case an email address is rejected.

At the meeting you can

1. Pick up information on how to sign up for Alerts and News on your home computer or
2. Fill out a sheet and Mel will sign you up for the Alerts and News.

VOTING

Each BWA Member is encouraged to attend the Annual Membership Meeting and cast votes in person. Only one vote per household is allowed. A Quorum of 30% of the membership (110 homes) is 33 members present or represented by a Proxy vote. A simple majority is required for any vote to pass.

PROXY

If your household will not be represented at the meeting, please fill out the PROXY. The PROXY can be delivered to the meeting by 1.) sending it with a neighbor who will be attending or 2.) dropping it off at your representative's home. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT AS MANY PROXIES AS POSSIBLE BE COLLECTED TO INSURE THE ANNUAL MEETING CAN BE CONDUCTED AS PLANNED, THE NECESSARY VOTES TAKEN AND THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE TRULY REPRESENT THE DIRECTION OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP.**

BYLAWS

There are two proposed changes to the Bylaws that will be voted on. **Both changes are recommended by the board.** Copies of the actual Bylaws changes were sent to each home in the September Billing and are also available on the BWA website.

BWA BOARD MEMBERS

The BWA Board is comprised of 5 members. A President, Treasure, Secretary and two representatives. One board member resigned this year due to health reasons. Each of the remaining board members have been in their positions for over 10 years, one over 35 years. The board feels that there are talented people in the BWA Membership who could bring valuable skills to the table in support of any future changes the membership directs at this Annual Meeting. Please see additional comments at the bottom of the document.

WATER TOWER INSPECTION RESULTS

Everyone is encouraged to go to our website and review the "Dixon Engineering Tower Inspection report" under "News & Notices" and then "2020 Annual Membership Meeting Announcement". The BWA Board recommends reading the "Executive Summary" (page 1) and the "Conclusions" and "Recommendations" on pages 2 thru 4 to get a good understanding of the condition of the tower. The rest of the report is supportive detail in comments and pictures.

WATER TOWER VOTE

The membership will be requested to vote on the following options which are:

1. Perform the recommended maintenance. Estimated cost of \$350,000.
2. Erect a new water tower. Estimated cost of \$650,000.
3. Pursue being connected to Coal Valley Water.
 - a. See "Coal Valley Cost Compare" and "Coal Valley Annual Tax Change" under "2020 Annual Membership Meeting Handouts" on the web.
 - b. If approved, the water tower would be removed and the BWA would cease to exist.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **The BWA Board does NOT recommend performing the recommended maintenance.** The cost is about 50% of the cost of a new tower and the maintenance cost of the current tower will continue to increase.
2. **The BWA Board RECOMMENDS the erection of a new water tower.**
3. Joining Village of Coal Valley water system. On 2016-08-28 a Special Membership Meeting was convened to discuss the proposal, by the Village of Coal Valley, for the BWA to be replaced by Coal Valley Water. After questions and answers a vote was taken. There were 65 votes cast with 5 (8%) in favor of joining Coal Valley Water and 60 (92%) opposed (this included the BWA Board).

John: From my vantage point as a board member I believe a new tower is the best long term answer but that is my personal opinion. The board understands that all options have their plus and minus but the option to do nothing is really not an option.

Voting to erect the new water tower is, over the long run, the most cost effective way to proceed. It retains the BWA and keeps the membership from paying non-resident Coal Valley water fees or Coal Valley Village water fees and taxes. **HOWEVER, to keep BWA viable a board is required to oversee our operations and insure we are in compliance with the Illinois EPA.** The membership must recognize that the operation of this association requires the participation of more than a few members. BWA has been fortunate over the years to have good citizens step up to the plate to keep quality water flowing to every home. Please understand this board will need some new faces soon so please consider getting involved before BWA faces the crisis of no board members.