

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, April 25th, 2017  
Groton Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lunch Room

**Minutes**

Present are BOWC's Chair John McCaffrey, Vice Chair James Gmeiner, Member Greg Fishbone, Water Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Croy, Louis F. Strenck, and Anneliese and Cole Tanner.

Mr. McCaffrey called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:30pm.

**Louis F. Strenck**

Mr. McCaffrey spoke about Mr. Strenck's work experience including international project management. Hiring Mr. Strenck could be a less expensive alternative than using a project manager within Wright Pierce. Mr. Orcutt thinks that hiring our own project manager could provide better attention to the project. Mr. McCaffrey invited Mr. Strenck into the room to meet everyone and he spoke about his experience and qualifications regarding construction oversight and project management. Mr. Fishbone asked if his projects normally run as planned and Mr. Strenck confirmed that his projects are run as well as they can be.

**#96 Hollis Street – Abatement Request**

Resident James Ryan of 96 Hollis Street requested abatement on a high water bill in 2014. The commissioners discussed the abatement request and reviewed the bills in question and historical usage. The abatement request was denied.

**Summer Water Conservation Program**

Mr. Orcutt recommended 3 days a week for odd and 3 days a week for even (no Mondays, 12:00am-9:00am and 6:00pm-9:00pm). Mr. McCaffrey confirmed that this is our normal ban for the start of the summer. Mr. Gmeiner said this ban allows us to get benefits from the state. Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to move forward with this ban effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and all were in favor. Mr. Orcutt said he will reevaluate early June for potential changes. Mr. McCaffrey confirmed the board will review at the first meeting in June. The board discussed the various wells and when each will be running. Baddacook and Whitney 2 will be running as much as we can.

**Whitney Pond Well Update**

Mr. Orcutt had not heard from Wright Pierce and should have the bid information before the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. McCaffrey asked about the soft starter at Whitney Well #2. Mr. Orcutt said it would be \$6000-\$8000 to replace or can use an extra hard stop from Whitney Well#1 for \$1500-\$2000. Mr. Gmeiner asked about the difference and Mr. Orcutt explained that soft start is a slow start and hard stop is a faster start. All agree to use the spare starter from Whitney Well #1 for the Whitney Well #2. After looking at prior year's data Mr. McCaffrey declares Whitney Well #1 yellow zone to be 20 and red zone to be 19. Whitney Well #2 yellow zone will be 22 and red zone 21.

### **Boathouse Road Water Main Extension – Approval**

Mr. Orcutt gave a draft of the agreement to the Coles prior to the meeting and had a final agreement to present at the meeting. The Cole's attorney made a few changes to the draft that the commissioners approved of. Mr. McCaffrey asked if Town Council had responded yet regarding this extension and Mr. Orcutt had not heard from them yet. Mr. Cole and the commissioners discussed the connection fee amount and came to an agreement on \$4000 per connection. Mr. Cole asked what would happen if something astronomical happened that the agreement didn't address. Mr. Gmeiner would be ok amending the agreement if this circumstance occurred. Mr. Cole asked if Mrs. Cole would still own the license if the property was sold and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that the license is non-transferable and she would still own it. Mrs. Cole asked if residents would only be forced to connect if their septic failed and Mr. Orcutt went over other scenarios that could occur and force people into connection. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the water main extension of 480 feet of 6" pipe and 1 hydrant on Boathouse Lane as on plan dated April 2017 and all were in favor.

### **Indian Road Water Main Extension – Approval**

Mr. Orcutt said that Finest Builders is proposing 200 feet, 6" water main extension and 1 hydrant that they would be paying for. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve and all were in favor.

### **Baddacook Pond Update**

Mr. McCaffrey said it is on track but didn't get the vote at town meeting yet and will probably be addressed the following week.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financials Update – Business Manager**

Mrs. Crory presented an updated budget verses actual report to review income and expenses to date. The commissioners asked Mrs. Crory to check the budget figures to the annual budget the town has. They would also like to see the income and expenses – without the transfers from the enterprise fund. Lastly, they would like to see forecasted numbers to gain a better understanding of the final income and expenses.

### **Other Business:**

Mr. Fishbone asked if the board had seen a post on Facebook regarding someone's daughter being sick and concerns that dirty water could have caused her illness. Mr. Orcutt confirmed that we spoke with the family and tested the water which came back negative.

Mr. McCaffrey said the Groton Electric will vote on Thursday for the amended rate program discussed at the prior meeting.

### **Minutes:**

April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved as amended.

### **Bills:**

Invoices were signed by the board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory  
Business Manager

John McCaffrey \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

James Gmeiner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Greg Fishbone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_