

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting

Of the

Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, April 4th, 2017

Groton Town Hall 2nd 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.

Mr. McCaffrey called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:39pm.

Whitney Pond Well Update – Superintendent

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the Whitney Wells are up and running. Mr. Orcutt confirmed that Whitney 1 is running and that Whitney 2 was not. Mr. Orcutt advised the Board that there were no leaks in the system and this helped during the cleaning process and the interconnection with Westford. Mr. Fishbone was interested in seeing if residents can opt out of the automated phone calls if they aren't on town water or sewer. Mr. Orcutt said he will look into it. Mr. McCaffrey requested updated graphs of water levels. Mr. Orcutt will gather graphs but noted that water levels are still about a foot below where they were last year at this time. Mr. McCaffrey asked about the bid from Wright Pierce and Mr. Orcutt said they are hoping to meet next week about the bid. Mr. McCaffrey wanted to meet once the bid is readily available.

Boathouse Road Water Main Extension Update

Mr. Orcutt said we are still waiting to hear back from Town Council, but is ok with the Board issuing a license agreement to the Coles. Mr. Fishbone asked if there would be any downside to issuing a five year and Mr. Orcutt said that people that cannot pay now will have to wait five years. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the agreement will survive the change of ownership and Mr. Orcutt said he would be ok with it. Mr. Fishbone wants to make sure we will be held harmless in the agreement. Mr. Orcutt will draft agreement for the Coles and ask them to come back at the end of April or early May. Mr. Orcutt was waiting for cost estimate of water main installation from the Coles. Mr. McCaffrey wants to make sure we oversee / inspect the process. Mr. Orcutt confirmed that we will oversee construction and we will retain ownership after the five year agreement has passed.

Baddacook Pond Update

Mr. McCaffrey said there were 4 out of 7 votes at the CPC meeting. Mr. Orcutt said that all five selectmen agreed. Mr. McCaffrey said there is a newspaper article with concern that this is primarily a water department issue. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. McCaffrey will be meeting tomorrow and the commissioners discussed how this does affect the whole town and will bring it up at the meeting. Mr. Orcutt said the contract is done. Mr. McCaffrey does not think sonar would be a less expensive route. Mr. McCaffrey said we need to get the weeds to a low level and then maintain it and not let it get out of control.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Orcutt reviewed the drought status and said the state meeting is next week and assumed we will still be in a warning level. He said we will discuss the water ban at the next meeting and update accordingly. Mr. McCaffrey confirmed we should have an updated plan in place by May 1st and Mr. Orcutt agrees. He also said we will relook at the ban early June also, when we have a better idea of water levels and drought status.

Other Business:

Mr. McCaffrey asked the commissioners if they agree to move forward with the new rate plan with Groton Electric that was discussed at the previous meeting. The commissioners agree and Mr. Orcutt will let Groton Electric know that will move forward with the new rate plan on May 1st. New website was discussed and Mr. Orcutt and Mrs. Crory will ask the IT department to make it live prior to next meeting. Mrs. Crory will bring updated 9 month financial statements to the next meeting.

Minutes:

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve previous meeting minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

Bills:

The commissioners reviewed and signed invoices.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager

John McCaffrey _____ Date _____

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Greg Fishbone _____ Date _____