

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lunch Room – Town Hall

**DRAFT Minutes**

Present are BOWC Chairman Gary Hoglund, Vice Chair David Crocker, member James Gmeiner, Water Superintendent Thomas Orcutt and Business Manager April Iannacone.

Mr. Hoglund called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**Fiscal Year 2015 – February Financial Review:**

Mr. Orcutt and Ms. Iannacone briefly discussed the financial status of the department as of the end of the February and reviewed the profit and loss statement. Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners of the projects that he was aware were in process and should be coming forth with payments in the near future. Ms. Iannacone noted for the Commissioners that the deficit balance showing on the profit and loss was mainly due to 2 factors, the remainder of the debt interest had been paid in January and the construction income had slowed due to the time of year. However, Ms. Iannacone did not believe this would be a trend and felt that things should start to head back up in February.

**Baddacook Pond:**

Mr. George Barringer was present at the meeting for this discussion. Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that there was a new issue that has come up with regard to water rights. When the Notice of Intent (NOI) was first being discussed it was the belief of all involved that the Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) and Board of Selectmen (BOS) would not need a local special permit to apply the sonar to Baddacook. Mr. Barringer informed the Commissioners that it was his understanding of the regulations that the Planning Board has the water rights to any zone 2 water protection district. Therefore, it was their belief that the GPAC and BOS would absolutely need a special permit to apply the sonar to Baddacook as it is in the zone 2 water protection district. Mr. Barringer stated that the Planning Board has sent a letter to the Conservation Commission (ConComm) and BOS stating the need for this filing and review by the planning board.

Mr. Gmeiner stated that the Water Commissioners needed to inform the ConComm that they stand firm on their position that if the conditions and questions expressed in their September memo to the GPAC were not addressed, then they were going to stand by their initial January 2014 decision against the application.

Mr. Orcutt stated that he believed it was likely the public hearing would not be closed this evening as the ConComm had not heard from National Heritage on their decision with regard to the application, and the new issue with the Planning Board special permit needed to be addressed. He stated that he would send the 2 memos along to the ConComm to ensure that they would be included as part of the official minutes of the public hearing.

**Conservation Commission Public Hearing Re: Baddacook Pond N.O.I.**

The Board of Water Commissioners joined the Public Hearing of the Conservation Commission in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room at 7:50 p.m.

The majority of the discussions with regard to the sonar application to Baddacook revolved around the ownership rights of the pond, and what other mitigation options there might be to avoid utilizing sonar in the zone 1 around the well. The Board of Water Commissioners reiterated their position that there was no benefit of this application to the rate payers who drink the water, there were too many questions unanswered as to testing protocol and quantification over how much water from the pond actually gets pulled through to the well while pumping, and the fear of migration of the contaminant(s) into the well. The Water Commissioners stated that there was legislation as well as evidence on the deed to the pond that the water rights were given to the Water Company, which in turn is now the Board of Water Commissioners.

The Conservation Commission requested follow up material from the Board of Water Commissioners on how much of the Town's water supply was utilized from Baddacook Well as compared to the Whitney Wells, as well as any or all paper documentation showing their ownership of the water rights.

**Minutes:**

There were no minutes approved at this meeting.

**Bills:**

The bills presented to the Board were all signed and submitted for payment.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Crocker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Iannacone  
Business Manager  
Water and Sewer Departments

Gary Hoglund \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

David Crocker \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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