

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, October 06, 2015

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

**Minutes**

Present are BOWC Chairman David Crocker, Vice Chair James Gmeiner, Member John McCaffrey, Water Superintendent Thomas Orcutt and Business Manager April Iannacone.

Mr. Gmeiner called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

**Water Use Restriction - Irrigation**

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that the outdoor watering restriction had been lifted as of last week. It took a little longer than expected, but the water quality and pumping ability at Whitney had been restored. The reverse 911 call that Mr. Orcutt requested the Police Department send out had not been done, however the website had been updated and it had been in the Groton Herald. Mr. Orcutt stated that all notification included a reminder that there would still be the odd/even and hour restrictions in place until the end of October as originally set at the beginning of summer. Mr. Orcutt then informed the Commissioners that he intended to complete a chemical cleaning of the Whitney Well this winter as had been done a few years ago, and would again request an interconnection with the Westford water department.

**Whitney Well Electrical Improvements**

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that Mr. Rick Davee of Wright Pierce had looked into the possibility of grants, but that he was not able to come up with any options for the work the Commissioners were looking to do. At this time he was recommending that the Commissioners do not take any action with regard to these improvements, and that the article be indefinitely postponed from the Town Meeting. He did not see any advantage to voting a sum of money for design plans that could take years to act on, because the department just did not have the funding to complete the project once designed.

***Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to inform the Town Manager that the Water Commission would like to remove and indefinitely postpone article 7 on the October 19<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting warrant for the Water Enterprise transfer of funds for the Whitney Well electrical engineering improvements. Mr. Crocker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.***

**25 A Blacksmith Row Billing Concern**

Mr. Orcutt and Ms. Iannacone informed the Commissioners that they just did not see any cause for abatement in this particular instance. After trying to compare to the other units in the complex, it ultimately comes down to the facts that there were no leaks detected and the meter tested that it was working within tolerances. In their opinion the water had been used and it was more the shock of the rate structure change and sewer change from their last location that the customer was having an issue with.

***Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to deny the abatement request for 25A Blacksmith Row due to the passing meter test. Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.***

**Other Business**

### **Baddacook Lagoon Update**

Mr. Orcutt stated that the land had been cleared and the stumps had all been removed. The stump removal was a cost of about \$5,000. At this point there would not be a lot of work to the next phase that they needed to bid out for construction, and that the Water Department staff would also do the work for the lines themselves in house in order to keep costs down.

### **Temple Project Update**

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that he had met with Lewis Lund who was working on the water line install for the Temple project to connect to Monarch Path. The project was ready to go and would be looking to connect within the next few weeks. Mr. Orcutt was trying to work things out to keep one of our in house operators on site to inspect the work full time while the seasonal water main flushing was also taking place over the next 3 weeks. However, if he was not able to keep an operator on site, he was going to research hiring someone to do the inspection at the cost of LL&S Development in order to ensure that our needs were met and the connection was done right.

### **Baddacook Weed Control**

Mr. McCaffrey informed the other Commissioners that he wanted to bring this discussion up to see where things were at with the plan to take a boat ride on the pond to assess the weed situation that the Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) is concerned over. He informed the other Commissioners that Mr. Jack Petropolous on the Board of Selectmen (BOS) had recently taken a ride to see the extent of the weed situation as well. Mr. McCaffrey also stated that he had been in discussion with members of the GPAC to inform them that at this point in time trying to start over and create a new Notice of Intent filing with the Town would just be a waste of time and resources at this point as there is no real direction or change to anything. Mr. McCaffrey stated that he was trying to work with the GPAC to work together to come up with a plan that does not involve the use of chemicals. Mr. Crocker asked if the GPAC was even willing to consider the option of treatment of the weeds without chemicals. Mr. McCaffrey replied that they were willing to research other options. Mr. Orcutt stated that the following Tuesday might be the only light day he has in the upcoming weeks to make the trip, and Mr. Gmeiner was also ok with the following Tuesday. Mr. Orcutt stated that he would set something up for the following Tuesday for himself, Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. McCaffrey to take the boat ride and then he would let them know the time.

### **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 8:30 p.m. Mr. Crocker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Iannacone  
Business Manager  
Water and Sewer Departments

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

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

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