

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Groton Town Hall Selectman's Meeting Room

Minutes

Present are BOWC's Chair John McCaffrey, Vice Chair James Gmeiner, Member Greg Fishbone, Water Superintendent Thomas Orcutt (taking the meeting minutes)

Mr. McCaffrey called the regular BOWC meeting to order promptly at 7:30 p.m.

305 Main Street – Abatement:

The 1st item on the Agenda was an abatement request for #305 Main Street for Mr. Cann, who is present at the meeting. Mr. Cann had a very high water/sewer bill (one meter only) and sought abatement for water used on the property. The GWD replaced the water meter back in the summer of 2017 as it had been estimating water usage for 5 quarters. When access was gained to do the change-out, a true water reading was gained. The "old" meter was scrapped and is unavailable for testing. Both parties agreed that some water was used (landscaping) but the true amount could not be ascertained. It was mutually agreed to abate 107 water units or \$404.46. The Board voted unanimously on Jim G. Motion that was seconded by Greg F.

Whitney Well Cleaning Project:

The Water Superintendent informed the Water Commission that he received two bids for the Well Cleaning Project. Maher Services of North Reading was the low bidder at \$24,487.50. The contract has been awarded to them and Tom expects work to be done in the month of March. Tom will be notifying the public safety officials regarding the work (water shortage) and the general public due to potential dirty water complaints. Groton will be working closely with Westford as we activate the Emergency Inter-connection with them. Greg F. asked Tom if he had looked at a multi-year pricing option. Tom will look into this.

Flushing Program:

The Water Superintendent informed the Water Commission on his plans to flush the water distribution system once the well cleaning project has been completed. He is working closely with George and Stephen on the program in light of the drought we are still experiencing. The flushing program will be modified so as to not impact water levels in the wells as well as fire protection. Tom will be communicating with Public Safety officials on the program as well as the public.

Whitney Well Upgrades:

Tom updated the water commission on the progress of the design of the proposed plant upgrades. There was some discussion that we would not have one or both wells ready for the summer. Tom reminded the Water Commission that a pre-summer completion was very aggressive and Wright-Pierce could not guarantee this schedule based on lead time for some of the equipment. Tom did however remind the Water Commission that we have permission from DEP to run Whitney Well#1

and Whitney Well#2 simultaneously. Tom will consider this during normal working hours when the operators are present. He would run the wells after hours or weekends as a safety precaution. Tom did inform the Water Commission on the Water Levels at the Baddacook and Whitney has improved some. The Baddacook well level is at 12.7 when the well is off and the Pond is full. Baddacook Pond could go up another 3" or 4" maximum. The Whitney Pond water levels appear to be full or at least higher than they have been for some time. The water level in the well is at 12.8' and has recovered about a foot over the winter. Tom will get updated water levels for the next meeting.

Groton Electric Light Department:

The Chairman, Jack M. wanted to know the status with the GELD proposal and wanted to get reacquainted with their Board on the issue. Tom said he was giving Kevin additional requested information – i.e. the breakdown on hourly water consumption for August. Tom will reach out to Kevin in order to get back on their agenda. The two items to be discussed are on the \$100K loan/grant and pricing for electrical consumption.

Baddacook Pond Weed Removal:

The Chairman, Jack M. brought the Water Commission up to speed on the Baddacook Pond Weed Removal Project and his discussion with Jim Luening and the BOS. Jack also had a very good and frank discussion with Board member Barry Pease. The CPC application has been submitted on time. Tom is working on the Contract Specifications for bidding.

Office Staffing:

Tom requested that Board consider increasing the Water/Sewer Clerks hours by 10 hours per week during the transition period of hiring/training the new Business Manager. The Board unanimously approved the request for up to four (4) weeks. Greg F. would like some of those hours to be dedicated to the new web site – tom will see what he can do.

Town Charter:

The Water Commission did not act on any proposed Town Charter issues. Specifically the proposed Charter change to not permit town employees from not running from elected office or serve on Enterprise Boards.

Other Business:

The Board would like updated water levels in the wells
The Board would like to know if we could get a multi-year cleaning bid
The Board would like to get updated Revenue and Expenses through February

Minutes:

There was no meeting minutes approved at this meeting as there were none prepared

Bills:

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

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas D. Orcutt

Water Superintendent

John McCaffrey _____ Date _____

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Greg Fishbone _____ Date _____