

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, July 25th, 2017
Groton Town Hall 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt (taking the meeting minutes). Note – Greg Fishbone came late to the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Guests – Rick Davee of Wright-Pierce Engineers

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Water Conservation Program – Well Levels & Pumping Levels

Mr. Orcutt presented copies of our historical water consumption or pumping records. No well level graphics were present as it was not the end of the month yet. Water consumption is down significantly. Water levels have not gone down in the wells and have stayed level since the last meeting. The Superintendent does not see any problems with maintaining and meeting current demands. Mr. McCaffrey wanted to know if we have had a chance to pump both Whitney Well #1 and Whitney Well #2 yet. The Superintendent indicated not yet as there was not a need. The Chairman wanted to see this operated soon.

Baddacook Pond Weed Harvesting Update

Both Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Orcutt had indicated that no work had commenced on Baddacook Pond yet as there was no “Access” License issued by the Commonwealth for use on the State Boat Launch/Ramp Area.

It was also noted that the water levels in Baddacook Pond were up significantly from last year.

Baddacook Pond Well

The Water Superintendent briefed the Water Commissioners on the pump and motor failure at the Baddacook Pond Well. Maher Services were in on Friday as an Emergency to remove and inspect the pump and motor. There was a bearing failure in the motor which caused the failure of the pump system. A new motor was being ordered for replacement in the well. The Pump was going to be inspected at the shop. The 4” discharge line was going to be replaced during the time that the well is down.

Lead and Copper Testing

Groton sampled 25 sites in June not including the required school sites. The results for lead and copper were acceptable the 90th percentile was met. One site had an elevated lead level of 0.028 ppm which was over the MCL of 0.015. The Superintendent did speak with the homeowner and the site was retested. The results were similar to what was tested in 2014 and below the MCL.

** Vice Chairman Fishbone arrived at the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Asset/Master Plan

Rick Davee of Wright-Pierce was present to discuss the final version of the Master Plan submitted to the State under the Grant the GWD received from the Commonwealth. Mr. Davee spent most of his time discussing Chapter 7 and the implementation of the plan and the costs related to implementation. The Board was made aware of the significant costs which keeping up with the Capital requirements of an old and aging system and maintaining the new equipment. Wright-Pierce is waiting for any comments back from DEP regarding the Asset Management Plan prior to finalizing the report.

Year End Financials 2017 / Fiscal Year 2018 – Business Manager

There were no Financials to discuss as the Business Manager was unable to make the meeting. However, there was considerable discussion regarding meeting budget in FY 2018 due to the lack of pumping due to a wet spring and summer through July. The Superintendent has estimated a \$90K shortfall in the 1st quarter of the new fiscal year due to lower than normal pumping at this time of year. On the positive side of this equation, construction is up and economic impacts will minimal and will not have an impact on the operating budget. There was a discussion or table presented on potential rate increases and system development fees to make up the shortfall.

** At 8:00 p.m., the Chairman has to leave the meeting for another engagement.

Sanitary Survey

The Water Superintendent discussed the results of the Water Department's Sanitary Survey with Vice Chairman Fishbone and Member Gmeiner. They were satisfied with the Survey by DEP and the responses from the Superintendent. The Board looked forward to receiving a copy of the response letter submitted to DEP.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, Etc.

Invoices were signed for Expense Warrant 4.

No meeting minutes were approved

The next meeting will be on Thursday 8/10/17 and on Tuesday August 29th.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Orcutt
Water Superintendent