

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
Groton Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Crory, town resident Mark Deuger, and Bruce Easom of Groton Electric & Light Department.

Mr. McCaffrey called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:34pm.

**Bruce Easom**

Mr. Easom ran an analysis to show which pump speeds would be the most efficient at Whitney Well #1. He showed various graphs and numerical data and explained his analysis. Mr. Easom believes we can reduce energy consumption by changing the speeds of the pumps according to his analysis. Mr. Orcutt explains that the aquifer is extremely low which can restrict us to pumping more in fewer hours. Mr. Easom is going to work on further analysis once he has the correct pump curves to show the commissioners and to assist them with their upcoming decision on the best method of operating the VFD's.

**Groton Electric – Rates**

Mr. McCaffrey and the Superintendent met with Groton Electric regarding a proposal of reduced rates. In exchange for a reduced rate, we would agree to not operate our pumps during certain hours of the day. The restricted times would change depending on the month. If the pumps did need to be run during the restricted hours, and those hours happen to fall on a peak day, we would revert back to our current rate structure for those hours. There would be no restricted hours of operation in April and October so that the proposed plan would not affect the flushing program. Mr. Orcutt states that this would be a ten year plan and Mr. McCaffrey thinks it should be reviewed yearly. Mr. McCaffrey will talk more to Groton Electric about the restricted times in July and August. Mr. Fishbone asked about increased customer charge. Mr. Orcutt responds that this is due to slight increase in work for Groton Electric to monitor this plan. The commissioners make are all in favor to move forward with the new rate plan.

Groton Electric also offered us a loan if we move forward with the new rate plan. More information is needed on the loan before the commissioners decide if it would be beneficial to consider. The Superintendent will ask the Town Manager on short term bonds/borrowing.

**Whitney Well Pump Upgrades**

Mr. Orcutt discussed the proposal for the new construction plans and SCADA. ITS has a proposal which is more competitive than the bid from Wright Pierce and that we will use our current software with the proposed upgrades at the Whitney Wells. Mr. McCaffrey discussed his thoughts on the Wright Pierce construction drawings. One issue discussed was making sure the drawings are to scale as the commissioners want to keep the parts the same size. Other issues discussed

included what to do in case of power outage, locks, and leaks. Mr. Orcutt is going to push back on the completion date. Mr. Gmeiner wants to make sure that there is "system verification" in place and Mr. McCaffrey presents a list a testing checklist that will be performed and which will need to be satisfactory before we accept. The plans and specifications will be ready on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Boathouse Road Water Main Extension Update**

The questions from the previous meeting were sent to Town Council and Mr. Orcutt is waiting for a response. Mr. Orcutt will draft an agreement for the Cole family.

**Baddacook Pond Update**

Mr. McCaffrey said the CPC are now going to take Prescott off and will rebid Phase 1. They meet Mondays at 7:00 and the commissioners may attend. Mr. McCaffrey hopes to get weeds out of Baddacook.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Orcutt presents a Superintendent's Report which confirmed that the Well Cleaning project at Whitney is on schedule. Mr. Orcutt makes a motion to move \$100,000 from the General Fund to Operating Expenses to finish out the fiscal year and the commissioners are all in favor.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Fishbone will bring his lap top to a future meeting to show the new website that he has been working on. Mrs. Crory and Water & Sewer Assistant Mrs. Livezey will assist Mr. Fishbone in getting the website up and running.

**Minutes:**

Previous meeting's minutes were approved at this meeting. Future meeting dates were discussed.

**Bills:**

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

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24pm and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory  
Business Manager

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

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

Greg Fishbone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_