

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting

Of the

Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017

Groton Town Hall 2nd 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 Croy

Mr. McCaffrey called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Reorganization of the BOWC's

The board discussed if Mr. McCaffrey should continue to be the Chairman of the board and it was voted unanimously that he continue his role as Chairman. Greg Fishbone was voted unanimously as Vice Chairman. Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Gmeiner if he can continue to sign off on payroll and it was voted that Mr. Gmeiner will continue as payroll signer. Mr. Fishbone was voted to be a secondary payroll signer if Mr. Gmeiner is not available.

Massachusetts Drought Status

Mr. Orcutt provided a letter from the state indicating drought status has improved and confirms that we are looking better now. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we are running Whitney 1 and 2 and Mr. Orcutt said we are running both. Mr. McCaffrey asked when we will try running them at the same time and Mr. Orcutt hopes to try it next week. Mr. McCaffrey asked if Baddacook is running and Mr. Orcutt said it is.

Groton Electric Rates

Mr. McCaffrey spoke about Groton Electric questioning their previous offer for a lower rate on non-peak days but they ended up keeping the offer in place. Mr. Orcutt noted that May 17th was the peak day during the month. Mr. McCaffrey said the new rates will go into effect May 24th and Mr. Orcutt confirms that we will monitor for the next peak day. Mr. Fishbone asked about how far out we should look at the forecast and Mr. Orcutt things that looking at the 10 day forecast is the furthest.

Summer Help

Mr. Orcutt discussed prospective candidate for Summer Help, Robert Hommel. Mr. Hommel took a Water Works test which required 14 hours of studying and he will take a test for a distribution license also. Mr. Orcutt proposed that he starts the first Monday in June at a pay rate of \$12.50 per hour. The summer help will last until Labor Day although as we approach fall, the board can discuss if extending the term of the help would be beneficial. Mr. Orcutt makes a motion to hire Mr. Hommel for the Summer Help position, Mr. McCaffrey seconds, and all are in favor.

Whitney Pond Well Update – Superintendent

Mr. Orcutt discusses hiring Luis Strenck for construction oversight at a rate of \$65/hour which is less than Wright Pierce's \$140/hour. He points out that some administrative and operational duties

will still need to be handled by Wright Pierce. Mr. McCaffrey suggested that Mr. Strenck meets with Rick from Wright Pierce. Mr. Orcutt agreed and will ask Mr. Strenck to bring a draft of a contract to the next meeting. Mr. McCaffrey asked when the bid is coming and Mr. Orcutt said it should be ready by June 7th. Mr. McCaffrey thinks Mr. Strenck would need to be hired by mid to late June.

Baddacook Pond Update – JM

Mr. McCaffrey asked if Tom met with the Fishery company and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that he did and they brought up some concerns such as where dumpsters would go and having enough room for the loader to move around. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the land next door is wet and Mr. Orcutt does not think we could get access to that area. Mr. Orcutt said the company suggested using a conveyer in some of the more challenging areas.

Financials Update

Mrs. Crory handed out updated financial information for the board to review and confirms that the financials and budget are in good standing. Mr. McCaffrey points out that there appears to be three reasons why we were profitable; increased rate income, increased construction income, and decreased expenses.

Other Business:

Mr. Orcutt provided the Board with a letter that will be sent to MassDEP requesting registration renewal forms since we are supposed to have them submitted by June 30th, 2017 for the December 31, 2017 renewal.

Mr. Orcutt discussed the Sanitary Survey that was conducted and reviewed some of the items they looked at such as documentation, alarms, processes, etc. They were concerned about contamination of the 1897 sister stern but Mr. Orcutt provided them information that backs up the functionality and that there should be no leakage or contamination. Mr. Orcutt said divers recently took photos in the well and it looks good. Mr. McCaffrey asked how often the survey is and Mr. Orcutt said it is every 3 years.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if our phone number is on the new website and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that it is.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if should look at the water ban at the next meeting and Mr. Orcutt agrees.

Mr. Orcutt informs the board that about 65 acres on Farmer's Row may be developed and would have water but would not have sewer.

Mr. McCaffrey asked what the drop off line on Whitney 2 graph for 2015 and Mr. Orcutt thinks it was a drought. Mr. Gmeiner asked when Whitney Wells were cleaned and Mr. Orcutt said that Whitney 1 was cleaned last year and Whitney 2 was surged last year.

Minutes:

Mr. Gmeiner makes a motion to approve minutes as amended and all are in favor.

Bills:

Invoices were signed by the board.

Mr. McCaffrey makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm and all are in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager

John McCaffrey _____ Date _____

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Greg Fishbone _____ Date _____