



Chair/James Gmeiner  
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt  
Clerk/Thomas Hartnett

**Town of Groton Sewer Department**

173 Main Street  
Groton MA 01450

**Date:** May 31, 2017

**Time:** 2:00 P.M.

**Location:** Town Hall/First Floor

**Members Present:** Chair/James Gmeiner  
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt  
Clerk/Thomas Hartnett

**Others Present:** Ann Livezey /Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Croy/Business Manager, Mike Hartnett/Tax Collector-Treasurer, Mark Haddad/Town Manager, Bob Rafferty/EPA & Judy Anderson

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The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 PM

**Pepperell IMA**

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Hartnett if it would be possible for the BOSC to borrow their own share to fund their portion of the debt for the upcoming Pepperell Upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plan which would be a total cost of \$1.2 Million. Groton is responsible for 25% of their debt, due to Groton getting sewer service from Pepperell. Mr. Hartnett said it would be possible to borrow our portion of the debt, but Mr. Haddad suggested that if the \$1.2 million was rolled into another project due to be financed that would allow for a better rate because the total amount borrowed would be higher. Mr. Haddad also suggested the BOSC finance with Pepperell to get a better rate and just confirm what the charges will be. Mr. Haddad asked why the BOSC would not just have Pepperell borrow it and Mr. Gmeiner stated last time Pepperell went SRF and the interest rate was good, but there was a lot of other fee's involved. Mr. Haddad also asked Mr. Hartnett if it would possible for the BOSC to do a State House Bond to finance the debt. Mr. Hartnett said he would look into that option.

Mr. Rafferty was present to discuss the IMA Agreement and provided the BOSC with a cost and potential annual savings based on Groton's Percentage of Collection System O&M costs. Mr. Rafferty also mentioned that Groton would now be paying based on a flow over flow basis and most of the time that would work out to be less than 25% cost. Mr. Rafferty reviewed their spread sheets and he comes up with 15% and Pepperell comes up with 19% cost percentage. Mr. Rafferty is going to review the spreadsheets again and play with the percentages and feels the numbers are getting close. Mr. Gmeiner feels that we are not that far off and also asked Mr. Rafferty to make sure the septic revenue was addressed and to make sure that is taken off the top. Mr. Rafferty did mention that Groton is paying 25% of the septage fee at this time and he will review those numbers again.

## **Rates hearing Continued:**

The rates hearing began at 2:30 and Mr. Hartnett read the following notice that was published in the Groton Herald April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 & May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### *Notice of Public Hearing*

*In accordance with Chapter 83 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and the Town of Groton Usage Fee Regulations, the Groton Sewer Commission will hold a Public Hearing, Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 2:30 P.M. at the Town Hall, 173 Main St., Groton, MA to consider amending the wastewater rates.*

*Groton Sewer Commission  
James L. Gmeiner, Chairman  
4/28, 5/5*

Mrs. Crory presented the BOSC with a spreadsheet showing the current revenue and a breakdown of each tier with the following increases and the amount of revenue that would be generated.

- 10% Increase for all Tiers would generate \$52K
- 10% Increase Tier 1 and 15% increase for Tiers 2 & 3 would generate \$78K
- Adding a 4<sup>th</sup> tier would generate \$17K
- Adding a 4<sup>th</sup> Tier with a 10% increase would generate \$68K
- Adding a 4<sup>th</sup> Tier and 15% increase Tier 2, 3 & 4 would generate \$67K

The BOSC was hoping to generate an additional \$85k in revenue to ensure there would be sufficient revenue to pay the expenses it will incur in FY18 including upcoming construction costs to the Pepperell Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Hartnett asked if we anticipated any increase in usage over the next few years with new construction being done. Mr. Gmeiner is hoping that the Groton Inn and the new restaurant will generate more users. Mr. Hartnett suggested that we get some projections on increased revenue and also take in account to the revenue that we will be losing. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mrs. Crory to run some numbers and do a comparison of some local restaurants for the next BOSC meeting.

After reviewing the options Mr. Orcutt suggested adding the 4<sup>th</sup> tier and a 10% increase across the board and have the rate increase take effect August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and that would generate an additional \$68K in revenue and if necessary we could always do another rate increase in the future if needed.

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to add a 4<sup>th</sup> tier and a 10% increase across all the other tiers starting August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 Mr. Hartnett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to keep the PPA at \$6,500.00 and keep the capacity charges the same and all application fees will remain the same Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **FY17/FY18 Operating Budget:**

No Discussion at this time.

**Other Business, Bills, Minutes etc. :**

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held on the June 14th, 2017 @ 2:00 PM.

**BILLS SIGNED**

One set of Bills were signed at this meeting for FY-17, Expense Warrants (EW-25).

**MINUTES:** May 17, 2017 & May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes were approved.

**ADJOURN** – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 PM. Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Livezey, Water & Sewer Assistant

**APPROVED:**

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