

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

1st Floor Selectmen's Meeting Room– Town Hall

Minutes

Present are BOWC Chair James Gmeiner, Member Gary Hoglund, Member Jessica Cajigas, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Sandy Pellecchia, and DPW Assistant April Iannacone.

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

Abatement Request #261 Main Street –

Ms. Pellecchia gave the Commissioners background information on the abatement request for Mr. Philip Buckingham at 261 Main St. She also stated that within the information that the Commissioners were given was the meter test report which shows the meter functioning properly. Ms. Pellecchia stated that Mr. Buckingham was unable to be at the meeting this evening but would be willing to attend the next meeting if the Commissioners would like him there. Mr. Gmeiner asked if Mr. Buckingham had been given copies of everything including the meter test report. Mr. Orcutt replied that Mr. Buckingham had not yet seen the meter test report but he would bring everything to him the next day. Mr. Hoglund stated that he would prefer to wait until Mr. Buckingham had all of the information explained to him and was able to come in to the next meeting if he was able to. Mr. Hoglund also stated that he would be willing to work out a payment plan on the high amount if the Commission voted not to approve an abatement. Mr. Gmeiner and Ms. Cajigas both agreed with Mr. Hoglund.

Mr. Hoglund made a motion to deny the abatement request for 28 Champney Street after reviewing all information processed as it showed no error with the billing or the meter and the number reported was actual usage. Ms. Cajigas seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Shirley Road Water Quality Issues –

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that right now with the hydrant open and bleeding 5 gallons per minute (GPM) for 24 hours a day there has been significant improvement in the water quality for the home that had been having issues. Mr. Gmeiner stated that the water quality may be getting better but they also had to think about the cost of the treated water going out of the system on a regular basis. Mr. Orcutt stated that he would look into the costs associated with 3 options for repairing the problem. He briefly explained the 3 options and stated that he would bring the costs back to the Commissioners at their next meeting. Ms. Cajigas also requested that Mr. Orcutt put together the costs for continuing to bleed the treated water through the system so they had that number for comparison as well. Mr. Hoglund asked Mr. Orcutt if he would put those numbers together using the retail rate for the water leaving the system, or the actual costs associated with the chemicals and electricity to treat and deliver the water. Mr. Orcutt replied that he would work the numbers for both of those scenarios.

Superintendents Report

Mr. Orcutt led a brief discussion regarding the topics listed on his October 11, 2011 Superintendent's Report. Please see attached report for a summary of those issues.

Other Business

Ms. Pellecchia informed the Commissioners that a demand notice had gone out to Mr. & Mrs. Rice at 335 Main Street due to an excessively high water and sewer bill, lack of response and communication from the homeowners, as well as multiple bounced checks. The letter had been sent out yesterday February 27th certified mail so the water department could prove receipt of the letter. They were giving the Rice's until the end of the day on Thursday the 1st and if they had not come in with at least half of the bill in cash, bank check or money order and a signed payment plan for the remainder the department would be issuing 1 final notice Thursday afternoon for termination of service mid-day on Friday the 2nd. She would keep the Commissioners informed of the situation should it escalate.

Ms. Pellecchia then reviewed the financials with the Commissioners.

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that there would be no need for them to go into executive session for the Collective Bargaining as there was nothing new to report.

Mr. Hoglund made a motion to exit the regular session meeting at 9:15 and enter into executive session to discuss union negotiations and not reconvene in open session. Ms. Cajigas seconded the motion. Roll call vote Gmeiner – yes; Hoglund – yes; Cajigas – yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Iannacone
DPW Administrative Assistant

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Gary Hoglund _____ Date _____

Jessica Cajigas _____ Date _____

Superintendent's Report

February 28, 2012

1. Unkety Brook Well Site: DEP-CERO is continuing its review of our new source application and therefore, there is nothing new to report at this time.
2. Forestry Management: Received Forest Cutting Plan from Baystate Forestry. Abutter's notices signed and will be mailed soon. I will meet with Con Com sometime in March with our Forester to answer any questions. ATV and snowmobile access points will be blocked permanently when completed. The cutting will take place in November of 2012 due to tight restrictions from Natural Heritage.
3. Consumer Confidence Report (CCR): began compiling the CCR for our customers and DEP. The feature story this year will be on the Groton Inn fire and how well the water system and staff responded to the fire flow requirements. Work continues as time permits.
4. Annual Statistical Report: received notification that the Annual Statistical Report is due by March 23, 2012. This is filed electronically, but will be time consuming effort for the Business Manager and myself. Work is continuing. Permitted Water Withdrawals have been exceeded due to the leak the system. The adjusted figures should be acceptable to DEP.
5. Water Treatment Plants: The system/plants were shut down off Friday evening around 7:00 p.m. and pumping resumed just slightly after midnight on Saturday evening. Therefore, pumping operations can be shut down during the winter months for 24 hours and therefore eliminate a weekend shift. It takes about 3 to 4 hours for the tank to get beyond a safe level for fire protection reserves during refilling. The Board should consider this and holding the licensed operators harmless when making a final determination on these operations.

Baddacook Pumping - Wright-Pierce was in to take measurements and collect information for the new pumping arrangement/design at the facility.
6. Shirley Road Water Quality: Testing of Iron & Manganese at House #194 Shirley Road continues. It appears that two recent samples show a lower presence of both Iron and Manganese. The results coincide with two actions: the 1st being a bleeder being installed on the end hydrant at 5 gpm and the installation of a GAC filter by the homeowner. None the less, the results are positive. Pricing for replacement options are continuing.
7. Miscellaneous: Groton School leak repaired by Bob Black. Additional work to be done in March with respect to an existing long dead-end that may pose water quality and health concerns to the Dining Hall. Groton School to do the work.

Working with Lawrence Academy on their proposed new faculty houses on Old Ayer Road and on Academy Drive (7 in total).

Revised Staffing Plan submitted to DEP.