

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

2nd Floor Lunch Room – Town Hall

Minutes

Present are BOWC Chairman James Gmeiner, Vice Chairman Hogle, Member David Crocker, Water Superintendent Thomas Orcutt and Business Manager April Iannacone.

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

FY2015 Operating Budget

Mr. Orcutt and Ms. Iannacone reviewed the budget draft that had been submitted to the Town Manager and the main changes from the FY2014 budget. The biggest change was that Mr. Orcutt was recommending that the salary for the Business Manager be shifted so that 2/3 was paid from the Water Department budget and the 1/3 split that the Sewer Department pays would get paid directly from their budget. This change would not affect the actual dollars paid by either department, but would simplify the process of back billing the Sewer Commission for the salary reimbursement, would lower the water departments operating budget, and also provide for the Business Managers future retirement to be split and partially paid by the Sewer Commission. Upon review of the expense detail the Commissioners requested that 3 line items be decreased back to the FY2014 funding voted rather than increasing the line items. This change reduced the expenses by a total of \$22,000 and Ms. Iannacone would reduce the revenue projection appropriately. The only other concern the Commissioners had with the budget was the Capital Budget item for the Lost Lake Water System Improvements that was showing under the Water Department as this was a Town/Board of Selectmen project that the Commissioners believe should be reflected elsewhere in the Town Capital Plans.

Mr. Hogle made a motion to remove the Capital Plan Project for the Lost Lake Water System Improvements be removed from the Water Department budget and moved to a Town sponsored capital item. Mr. Crocker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Baddacook Pond

Mr. Gmeiner informed the other Commissioners that he had watched the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) meeting and that the BOS did not take any kind of position on the topic, instead they recommended that the Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) have a formal discussion with the Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC), and they would like the decision of the BOWC before they discuss anything further. Mr. Hogle asked if the department had documentation on their water rights. Mr. Orcutt replied that there was enabling legislation from 1897 stating that the Water Commission purchased the water rights to the pond when they purchased the private water company. The Commissioners consented that they would like all supporting documents stating the Commission has the rights to the water and what a clear definition of their rights is. If the Commissioners have the authority to say no to the proposed treatment and determine they would like to vote that way, they would like all backup to support their rights. The Commissioners requested that Mr. Orcutt and Ms. Iannacone collect information for them to discuss at their December 10th meeting, and then requested that Mr. Orcutt invite the GPAC members to the December 17th meeting for the initial discussion on the treatment request.

Minutes:

There were no minutes submitted for approval at this meeting.

Bills:

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

Mr. Hoglund made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Crocker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Iannacone
Business Manager
Water and Sewer Departments

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Gary Hoglund _____ Date _____

David Crocker _____ Date _____