

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF May 6, 2015 MEETING
2:30 PM – TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:35 P.M. Also present were the Vice Chairman, Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager, April Iannacone. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant. Thomas Hartnett, Clerk, was unable to attend.

Abatement Requests:

38 Willowdale Road – Mr. Orcutt gave a brief background and explanation of the circumstances that occurred at the property. He stated that the homeowner, Karen Gannon, had late payment issues in the past, but had much improved her payment record over the last year. There was, however, a situation where her toilet was running and would continue to run unless the toilet handle was flicked upwards to stop it from running. This situation was verified by the Water Department technicians who were sent over to investigate. Apparently, the lever was not always put back into place and thus she incurred a large bill as follows: Water = \$500, Sewer = \$1406. Ms. Gannon is asking for any help she can get due to her financial situation. The Business Manager mentioned that perhaps the possibility of lowering the bill to Tier 1 would be a resolution and also maybe issuing a credit to replace the toilet to ensure that this does not happen again. Mr. Gmeiner questioned as to whether Ms. Gannon has filed an Application for Abatement. Ms. Iannacone stated that she had not filed to date. Mr. Gmeiner insisted that she *must* start the process by filing the Application and would look into the Tier 1 solution and toilet rebate going forward.

New Groton Fire Station on 45 Farmers Row – Mr. Orcutt informed the meeting that when the Fire Station was constructed, the plumbers plumbed the water for the fire truck system to the domestic system in error, thus driving the water that would normally go through the ground, through the sewer system (using 87 Units). This made for a high water/sewer bill (see attached) of \$1571.70. The DPW is, therefore requesting an abatement for this error in plumbing. Mr. Orcutt indicated that the problem had been rectified. Mr. Gmeiner questioned as to whether it was verified to have been completed *correctly*. He was concerned that there might still be water going down the toilet on the outside meter. He also requested that a Water/Sewer Technician be sent out to determine that the water is going where it is supposed to be going. After that inspection, he required that an Application for Abatement be submitted from the DPW and since there is no prior history, a dollar amount would need to be determined from there.

217 Main Street – Mr. Orcutt explained the unfortunate situation that occurred due to a frozen pipe situation where the homeowners were away and had no idea that the pipes had frozen, then consequently thawed out and then leaked all through the house creating a situation where they had to replace everything. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there had been a drain in the basement. Mr. Orcutt responded that there was a pea stone and dirt floor in the basement, which allowed the

water drain and also flooded the backyard. Mr. Orcutt stated that even the toilets had frozen. This incident drove her water bill to \$4321.09, (see attached). He stated that the homeowner, Gina Davis, was seeking an abatement for the sewer portion of the bill, since the flood water drained through the basement floor and had not gone through the pipes, and thus had not been treated through the Sewer System. He added that Ms. Davis had come in to the office to fill out the Application for Abatement (see attached). Mr. Gmeiner reiterated that since the water drained outside, and not through the sewer system, he would put the decision to a vote. Mr. Orcutt made a motion to abate the entire sewer amount with the exception of 10 Sewer Units. Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Financials

Ms. Iannacone updated the BOSC on Sewer Budget Financials and noted that they appeared to be right on track with a net income of \$53K. Mr. Gmeiner asked if that was the amount without the Transfer of \$100K from E&D. Ms. Iannacone responded affirmatively, noting that they still have 2 months (May & June) to go. Mr. Gmeiner was questioning the necessity for the full amount of \$100K going forward. He mentioned the possibility of making an amendment to reduce the amount and presenting it at Town Meeting. Ms. Iannacone was asked to figure out the numbers and email Mr. Gmeiner on Friday of this week. She said they typically take in \$30K a month for April, May and June and that she was still waiting on the Pepperell Treatment bill. She agreed that the full \$100K amount was probably not necessary. She agreed to work the numbers and email Mr. Gmeiner.

Other Business

Next Meeting

Mr. Gmeiner requested that the BOSC schedule a brief meeting for next Wednesday, May 13, 2015 @2:30 PM.

BILLS SIGNED

No Bills and/or Invoices were signed for payment at this meeting.

Minutes:

No minutes were approved at this meeting.

ADJOURN

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 P.M. Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens
Water & Sewer Assistant