

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 MEETING
2:30 PM – TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:30 PM. Also present were Vice Chair, Thomas Orcutt, Clerk, Thomas Hartnett and Business Manager, April Iannacone. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant.

Pepperell DPW – Protocol

As requested by the BOSC, Ken Kalinowski, Pepperell DPW Director, and Joe Jordan, Pepperell Sewer Superintendent, were present at the meeting. Mr. Gmeiner began addressing the meeting with the intent of sorting out a more definitive understanding of the interplay between Groton and Pepperell with regard to Sewer. Mr. Orcutt described a situation at 55 Boston Road, in which a Pepperell DPW employee on a sewer connection job was asked by the contractor for a piece of equipment, and the Pepperell employee, in turn, went to Mr. Orcutt and asked him for the equipment. Mr. Orcutt continued that the Pepperell employee obviously did not understand the protocol and since Groton “has no Sewer Technicians”, Pepperell is to fulfill the Sewer duties on behalf of Groton. Mr. Jordan interjected that, as he understood it, the Pepperell employee wasn’t sure what to do because he thought it was on private property. He had previously been instructed not to do any work on private property in Pepperell or Groton. Mr. Jordan told the meeting that the Pepperell employee misunderstood his directive and should not have looked to Mr. Orcutt for the equipment. Mr. Gmeiner said that the BOSC does not expect Pepperell to work on private property, however it is our understanding that the valves are always in the “right of way” or at the street line. If it’s anywhere up to the property line, then that would be the responsibility of the Sewer Department. Mr. Jordan said that as Pepperell Sewer, we have no authority to anything “this or that way”. Mr. Gmeiner stated that the BOSC had adopted Pepperell’s regulations as our own to mirror what they already do in their town. He told the meeting that Groton relies on Pepperell to come in and take a look at things and make recommendations. Mr. Kalinowski told the BOSC, that the IMA gives Pepperell the authority for treatment, however, there is a separate document that should be renewed year to year for daily operations. He stated that Pepperell has no recent documentation of that agreement being renewed in the last few years. Mr. Jordan added that he needed to be clear on the expenditure amount he could approve of without having to come to the BOSC. Mr. Hartnett mentioned that a simple phone call would be appreciated. Mr. Gmeiner added that Mr. DeFillipo usually gives the office (Ruth or April) a “heads up” giving date, time, issue and what really occurred, which is much appreciated by Groton. He also said that as long as the dollar amount is not *extravagant*, and usual procurement practices are being adhered to, the BOSC would be comfortable allowing Pepperell to make the decision. If it’s an emergency or an extravagant dollar amount, the Groton Sewer Office would need to be contacted by Pepperell and the BOSC will advise Pepperell forward. Mr. Gmeiner asked that if Pepperell hadn’t already done so, to please resend the letter to the BOSC.

122 Old Ayer Road Discussion

The conversation began with Mr. Gmeiner asking Gary Shepard, representing Indian Hill Music, if someone from his constituency would be attending the upcoming Selectmen's Public Meeting on September 21, 2015 regarding Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Mr. Shepard answered affirmative. Mr. Gmeiner explained that the Warrant Article put forth by Indian Hill Music, would need to include the Capacity Amount, which would, in turn, enable a calculation for the cost of connecting 122 Old Ayer Road to Sewer. This information would be necessary in order to put forth the Town Meeting Warrant Article Mr. Shepard would be presenting. Mr. Shepard told the BOSC that, at this point, Indian Hill was not convinced they would be "going that route" and hooking into the Sewer District, due to the cost that was quoted for the former owner, Thomas More College. He also said that @ \$1.6 million, they could look into other options. Mr. Gmeiner noted that the biggest portion of that \$ amount was largely due to the planned dormitory dwellings on-site at Thomas More. The discussion continued with calculations for GBF and PPA. Mr. Shepard stated that if he had to go to the most extreme +/- 7500 gbd @ 3 per seat in the event hall and 5gpd per student, he should be able to make 6500 gpd work. Mr. Gmeiner suggested that they might eventually consider reducing the *initial* assessment due to the fact that there would *not* be a need for bedrooms/dwellings/dormitories for the Indian Hill Music School. Mr. Shepard decided to submit a Warrant Article at the upcoming Selectmen's Meeting on Monday night.

Financials

Ms. Iannacone presented the Groton Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings Disposition to the BOSC, noting in particular the Total E&D Balance of FY2005 of \$568,068.00.

Next Meeting - Mr. Gmeiner requested that the BOSC schedule a meeting for the Selectmen's Public Hearing Meeting on **Monday, September 21**, 2015 and for a BOSC **Wednesday, October 7**, 2015 @2:30 PM.

BILLS SIGNED

One Set of Bills and/or Invoices were signed for payment at this meeting for FY-16/EW-7.

MINUTES of August 5, 2015 – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

ADIURN

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 PM. Mr. Hartnett and seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens, Water & Sewer Assistant

