

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 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.

**Sewer Abatement Request-154 Main Street**

Mr. Paul Nichols (not present) submitted an application for a sewer abatement on his most recent bill due to the fact that it was a very dry summer he needed to water outside for his new plantings. After discussion, Mr. Hartnett made a motion to abate 14 Units (13U @ \$13.33 + 1U @ \$7.67) for a total of \$180.96. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to accept, with the stipulation that a letter be sent to Mr. Nichols stating that this is a *one-time abatement* and that the BOSC *strongly recommends* that he installs a second meter for future outdoor watering. Mr. Orcutt agreed and the vote carried unanimously.

**Abatement Request 25A Blacksmith Row**

The homeowners (Mr. & Mrs. Brogan) were not present at the BOSC meeting. The BOSC had been waiting to review their most recent bill before making a final decision as to abating a portion of the sewer bill. They noticed usage had dropped by 10 after changing habits over the last 3 months. Mr. Hartnett made a motion to abate 10 Units (1U @ \$14.66 and 9U @ \$13.33) for a total of \$134.63, Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion of Pepperell and Sewer Agreement**

After having had some time to review the Agreement on their own, the BOSC compared the current agreement to the proposed agreement and noted some key points. Under **Basic Operational Services**, 1-1.1 a change was recommended to go from five to “**four**” inspections per week. Under the same section on 1-1.2, (f), “Pepperell shall furnish copies of sewer cleaning and maintenance reports, (an addition of: “**invoices for supplies, parts and repairs**” was added). Lastly, under section 14 **Written Notice**, 14-1, “Notice under Section 13 shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Chairman of the Board of Sewer Commissioners,(an addition of: “**and Chairman of the Board of Public Works**” was added) of the Town being notified. Mr. Orcutt questioned as to the time length of the Agreement offering that maybe it could be a 2 or 3 year agreement. Mr. Gmeiner said he prefers that it be kept yearly so that there is pressure on Pepperell to keep on top of things. He mentioned that the overhead seems to be creeping up and needs to be monitored. He asked that Ms. Iannacone and Ms. Dufresne (Town Accountant) take a look at the Sewer Overhead. Mr. Gmeiner also asked that before the next meeting, the BOSC see what they can put together to come up to the 1.75% portion Groton is responsible for. He also asked Ms. Iannacone to check and see how much has been paid to Pepperell for Treatment and O&M to get an idea of how much they have gone up in the last 3 years. (Jane Budget)

### **Grinder Pump Service Contract**

Mr. Gmeiner asked the BOSC what they would like to see happen with regard to a failed Grinder Pump Policy in an emergency situation as they need to decide which road to take. He asked them if they want to go with having a core pump on hand and having it available at the Police Station and notifying town plumbers that it is there for emergency purposes, *or* did they want to go with Henry Albro of F.R. Mahoney's option of having a standard contract whereby it would be taken care of directly by them. He cautioned this option could cut town plumbers out of this part of their business, although he liked the idea that it would be taken care of. Mr. Hartnett voiced that as long as nobody gets stuck or gets the runaround, he would like to see a deal that is equitable for everyone and the hardest hit people get the option. Mr. Orcutt mentioned having some type of retainer and paying a company to take care of it and then sending the customer a bill. He suggested working out a plan before the end of the fiscal year where the resident can finance the bill for 6 months. A letter to every grinder pump owner could be sent out to inform them of their options. Mr. Gmeiner suggested taking a look at how much the BOSC could act as the financing arm of the potential situation. He mentioned having Mr. Haddad and Ms. Dufresne put something out to bid. Mr. Orcutt informed the BOSC that pumps installed at the same time are most likely going to fail at the same time, thus having an influx of calls simultaneously and cautioned that he doesn't want a call for a plumbing inspection on a Saturday morning. He also stated that if the Town has a contract with F.R. Mahoney, they will have a spare core. Mr. Gmeiner reiterated his concern for town plumbers feeling slighted. He also reminded the BOSC that we still need to educate the Grinder Pump owners about what to do when their pump fails. Mr. Orcutt suggested having a spare core Nod Road and a key at the Police Station. Mr. Gmeiner asked again what the BOSC preferred; either having a spare core on hand or contracting with F.R. Mahoney. Mr. Orcutt replied that he thought doing *both* would be the best solution. Mr. Gmeiner asked that Ms. Iannacone talk with Mr. Haddad and Ms. Dufresne about procurement and how long the customer would have time-wise to finance in terms of months/years. He stated that he would like to see this policy nailed down by the next meeting.

### **128 Main Street Capacity**

Mr. Orcutt informed the BOSC that they need to discuss Sewer Capacity with the owners of the Groton Inn @ 128 Main Street since he has learned that they are planning on having 60 bedrooms in the new inn vs. 16 in the old inn. He wants to make sure there is enough capacity to cover the sewer needs for the new inn. He told the board that in September 2011, 5100 gpd were held aside for capacity. Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Stevens to invite them to the next BOSC meeting in two weeks. He also asked that a list be compiled of properties not connected to sewer who paid low PPA's and see who has been hooked up and who hasn't.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held on **Wednesday, November 18, 2015 @ 2:30 PM.**

### **BILLS SIGNED**

A second set of Bills and/or Invoices were signed for payment at this meeting for FY-16, EW10.

**MINUTES of October 28, 2015** – Mr. Hartnett made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the vote carried unanimously

**ADJOURN** – Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM. Mr. Orcutt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens, Water & Sewer Assistant