

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 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.

**Debt Service for Pepperell Upgrade**

The Town Manager, Mark Haddad, made a special request to the BOSC regarding the Debt Service Agreement between the Town of Groton and The Sewer Commission for the Pepperell Upgrade. Mr. Haddad stated that he was aware that 9 years ago, the Town and the BOSC entered into an agreement whereby there would be a 50-50 split when paying down the Debt Service for the Pepperell Upgrade. He said that the BOSC has been very gracious in paying the whole \$54K each year with the exception of the first year. Mr. Haddad said he finds his FY17 budget squeezed due to the fact that the GDRSD is asking for \$3.2M and the Municipal side is only allowed a 2.2% increase overall. He asked the BOSC if they would consider taking back the \$27K portion of the Town's responsibility again for FY17 and stated that he would try to take back the \$27K for FY18. Mr. Gmeiner responded that the BOSC is currently looking at a costly upgrade with Pepperell, using \$52K from E&D in order to balance the BOSC's FY17 budget. He told the meeting that he was not in favor of Mr. Haddad's request and said he did not want to make a commitment today. He added that the BOSC entered into this agreement believing that the Town was going to pick up half of the cost. He stated that ratepayers' money is being used to pay taxpayers' obligations. Mr. Hartnett brought up the fact that the Town had subsidized the BOSC for 5 or 6 years a while ago and that it ended up with the taxpayers being paid back. Mr. Gmeiner said that he doesn't see the BOSC getting paid back. Mr. Orcutt hesitated and asked Mr. Haddad that if we don't agree to give it to you today, and you still have a meeting tomorrow...Mr. Haddad interjected that he has a meeting with the Finance Committee on Monday night and *has to* present them with a balanced budget. He went as far as to say he would make a *commitment* to give back *half* of the \$27K in FY18. Mr. Hartnett then made a motion to accept the offer of Mr. Haddad to cover the \$27K for the FY17 Sewer budget with the expectation of getting it back in the future. Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion and the motion was accepted. The motion was put to a vote before the BOSC. Mr. Hartnett voted in favor of the motion, Mr. Gmeiner voted no, and Mr. Orcutt said that he prefers to wait and see how it plays out with the FINCOM and go from there. Mr. Haddad asked for a definitive answer. Mr. Orcutt ended up voting in favor of the motion and the majority ruled.

**Grinder Pump Service Contract**

There was no new information regarding this topic, therefore, it was moved to a future time.

### **Discussion of Pepperell and Sewer Agreement**

The BOSC reviewed an email from Joe Jordan, Water & Sewer Superintendent for the Town of Pepperell with regard to amendments to the Operations Agreement which were requested by the BOSC in a previous email. In the email, Mr. Jordan said the following: "we are amenable to the proposed changes, with the understanding that if we feel a 5<sup>th</sup> inspection is warranted on any given week to properly maintain the pump station, we will perform it. The four inspections will be made on days of our choosing and will occur during the regularly scheduled work week, Monday through Friday." After a brief discussion, the BOSC agreed that the way the Agreement had been amended by Groton, fits in line with the input from Mr. Jordan and each Groton Sewer Commissioner signed the agreement and Mr. Orcutt will be passing it along for other signatures.

### **120 Boston Road Capacity**

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that Pediatrics West is looking to obtain a Building Permit ASAP for the property located at 120 Boston Road. Ms. Iannacone added that it was previously voted to hold 8K aside for capacity. To that, Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Iannacone to go back and check the betterment assessment for that property and compare what it was going to be previously to what it is going to be now. He asked her to try and figure out what the fee will be and make sure his plan hasn't changed from what he gave us. Mr. Orcutt reminded the BOSC that the Town won't issue a permit without his signature, and that he would flag folder and keep an eye out for it.

### **Other Business**

The BOSC reviewed a letter from Landmark Realty Trust with regard to the property located at 127 Main Street. Landmark submitted a plan to address the Caps & Bollards problem there (see attached) and hope to have it completed by 12/10/15. Mr. Orcutt reported that no action has been done to date. He will be looking in on the property to track the progress.

The BOSC reviewed a map of the Sewer Plan for the Groton Inn location at 128 Main Street to ensure accuracy.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held on **Wednesday December 16, 2015 @ 2:30 PM.**

### **BILLS SIGNED**

No bills were signed at this meeting.

**MINUTES of November 18, 2015** – Mr. Hartnett made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes with the correction of Rob Anctil to Rob Oliva at Ross & Associates, Mr. Orcutt seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN** – Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 PM. Mr. Orcutt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Stevens, Water & Sewer Assistant

---

GSC Minutes 12/2/2015