

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

2nd Floor Lunch Room – Town Hall

DRAFT Minutes

Present are BOWC Chair James Gmeiner, Vice Chair Gary Hoglund, Member Jessica Cajigas, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager Sandy Pellecchia, and DPW Assistant April Iannacone.

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

Shirley Road Water Quality Issues –

Mr. Orcutt updated the Commissioners on the approximate costs of the hydrant running at the end of Shirley Rd in order to improve the water quality for residents on the road. At this time it is costing approximately \$200 a week with a flow rate of 5 gallons per minute (GPM). Mr. Orcutt stated that he could run the numbers to look at the cost of slowing down the flow rate as well as the cost to repair the line however the cost of repair would likely be labor intensive. Mr. Hoglund and Ms. Cajigas stated that they would definitely like to see the estimates for all options to remedy the water quality to compare to the \$200 a week they would spend if they left the hydrant open as is. Ms. Cajigas then asked if there had been any other complaints since the department had opened the hydrant and the flow on the line. Mr. Orcutt replied that the department had not received any calls. Mr. Hoglund asked if there might be any benefit to keeping the hydrant open during only part of the year doing a rotating cycle of opening and closing periodically to save the cost of the lost water. Mr. Orcutt replied that he believed that if they were to stop the hydrant they would likely cause the problem to come back again fairly quickly. He stated that he would slow down the hydrant flow and see if he received any complaints or noticeable difference, then have a more formal cost proposal for the Commissioners at their next meeting.

Vehicle Purchase –

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that the water vehicle #1 was completely out of service. The mechanic at the Highway Garage looked at the vehicle and was running numbers on repair, but there was major structural repair needed to the vehicle frame. Mr. Orcutt stated that water vehicle #4 has always been a spare that he is using right now, but the condition of that vehicle was not in much better shape than W-1. Mr. Orcutt was requesting that the BOWC authorize the purchase of a new vehicle for the department. Mr. Hoglund asked if Mr. Orcutt would have to go out to bid for a new vehicle or if there were viable options on the State Bid List. Mr. Orcutt replied that he would like to purchase off the State Bid List to be able to use 3 quotes and keep the purchase under \$25,000. The Commissioners discussed different options for vehicles and what options Mr. Orcutt believed were necessary for the department's needs. Mr. Orcutt asked if the Commissioners would be willing to take a contingency vote to authorize the purchase and then he would get all of the requested information to them as soon as possible to make a decision on the type/cost of the vehicle. Mr. Gmeiner stated that he would rather Mr. Orcutt forward the Commissioners all information as he gathers it and then set up a meeting the following week on Monday morning for the Commissioners to take the formal vote as to not delay the process 2 more weeks to the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Orcutt led a brief discussion regarding the topics listed on his March 27th, 2012 Superintendent's Report. Please see attached report for a summary of those issues.

Minutes –

Mr. Hoglund made a motion to approve the minutes of their regular meeting of January 24, 2012 as drafted. Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried 2 in favor and 1 abstained (Ms. Cajigas).

Mr. Hoglund made a motion to exit the regular session meeting at 8:35 and enter into executive session to discuss union negotiations and not reconvene in open session. Ms. Cajigas seconded the motion. Roll call vote Gmeiner – yes; Hoglund – yes; Cajigas – yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Iannacone
DPW Administrative Assistant

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Gary Hoglund _____ Date _____

Jessica Cajigas _____ Date _____

Superintendent's Report

March 27, 2012

1. Unkety Brook Well Site: Received comments from DEP-CERO regarding this site (Pending Approval). I shall work with Wright Pierce to complete the 4 or 5 questions that they have asked of us.
2. Forestry Management: Received Forest Cutting Plan from Baystate Forestry. Abutter's notices signed and have been signed (I am checking this list over again to be sure all the abutter's have been properly notified. Meeting with Con Com will now be in April. The cutting will take place in November of 2012 due to tight restrictions from Natural Heritage.
3. Consumer Confidence Report (CCR): This report has been completed and we are waiting for DEP-CERO to approve one page of the report.
4. Annual Statistical Report: This report has been completed and filed. UAC for water is under 5% and the RGPCD is 64 gallons. Both well with DEP's target.
5. Water Treatment Plants: Minor problems with the WIN 911 program on the SCADA system (i.e. – no calls/texts going to the Water Superintendent when the plant is in alarm. Employees calling me direct.

Baddacook Pumping – The Baddacook Plant was off over the weekend due to cleaning of the cistern with Chlorine in order to kill the iron bacteria. We will repeat this again in June prior to the summer pump season getting under way. KOH injector pumps are being replaced and new stainless steel plumbing installed in order to eliminate leaks and constant repairs to the plastic fittings.

6. Shirley Road Water Quality: Testing of Iron & Manganese at House #194 Shirley Road continues. It appears that two recent samples show a lower presence of both Iron and Manganese. The results coincide with two actions: the 1st being a bleeder being installed on the end hydrant at 5 gpm and the installation of a GAC filter by the homeowner. None the less, the results are positive. Pricing for replacement options are continuing.